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LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ON CONTADORA

Colombian, Panamanian Ministers Remarks

PA220013 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Mar 85 p 12 A

[By German Acero Espinosa]

[Text] At an informal meeting held at the Colombian Embassy in Brazil, the Contadora Group jointly determined the groundwork, commitments, and procedures to be followed to provide continuity to the peace process in Central America.

Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, who returned to Bogota on Saturday night, told EL TIEMPO that the foreign ministers also said that their governments are convinced that the region's crisis can only be solved through political negotiations. Ramirez Ocampo maintained that the stability and peaceful coexistence desired by the Central American nations must be achieved. For this reason, a meeting was set for 11 and 12 April in Panama. This meeting, which will decide the fate of Central America, will serve to review the mechanisms that were outlined in Brazil and the verification and control needed for the region's security.

The foreign minister also said that his counterparts said that they were convinced that the negotiations sponsored by the Contadora Group are the best forum to arrive at true, lasting solutions for the conflicts that currently exist in the Central American area. They also stressed their political willingness to continue this Latin American diplomatic project and to give it a true boost. In this regard, they asserted that they are determined to arrive, within a short period, at just, honorable agreements that permit an end to the negotiations in which they are currently involved.

Ramirez Ocampo said that those in the region who participated, that is, the Contadora Group countries, once again emphasized that they agree with the document of objectives approved in September 1983 and with the steps to implement those objectives approved in January 1984.

He also met with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega who told him that Nicaragua wants to resume bilateral negotiations with the United States. In the meeting, they admitted that although there are serious threats to peace in Central America, the right conditions for a dialogue and an agreement have been recreated.

The representatives of the Central American governments asked the Contadora Group to promote, as soon as possible, the resumption of negotiations aimed at a quick signing of the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America. The foreign ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras delivered a proposal on the verification and control of security in Central America. This new phase of the fine tuning of the agreements will pave the way for progress in the signing of a treaty for peace and cooperation in Central America.

Ramirez Ocampo also met with Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares, seeking the signing of an agreement for Colombian coal sales to that nation. He also said that certain ideas that will be discussed at the meeting between the 24 of the temporary committee [not further identified] and the IMF and the World Bank vis-a-vis the Bonn summit were consolidated.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze told EL TIEMPO that the Contadora peace efforts were reaffirmed at the meeting held at the Colombian Embassy in Brazil. He said that the delivery of Urbina Lara to the Contadora Group removed a disruptive obstacle from the peace negotiations, which now have become more active than ever. It also served for all Central American foreign ministers to reaffirm the mandate given to the Contadora Group to search for peace. The Contadora Group's topics on control and verification will be discussed at the meeting scheduled for Panama.

Costa Rican Minister Comments

FL231550 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1655 GMT 22 Mar 85

[By Augustin Pradillo]

[Excerpts] San Jose, 22 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Costa Rica's Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has said here that there exists consensus among Contadora foreign ministers on emphasizing the verification and control clauses to achieve a signing of the peace and cooperation proposal. At a press conference, the foreign minister said that at the meeting to be held in Panama on 11 and 12 April, modifications made by the foreign ministers of Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica would be reviewed. Foreign Minister Gutierrez said that Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has said he agrees to a revision of the proposal if the spirit of the accord is not changed.

Plenipotentiaries To Attend Meeting

PA221724 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The meeting that the Contadora Group will hold on 11 and 12 April will not be a meeting of foreign ministers. Instead, it will be a substitute for the meeting of plenipotentiaries that was canceled in February. The plenipotentiaries will discuss the topic of supervision and control of the Contadora Document commitments. Two documents exist on this subject. One of them was drawn up by El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica and the other was drafted by the deputy foreign ministers of the Contadora Group, who used recommendations from a Canadian commission as a basis.

The document drawn up by the Governments of El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica was distributed to the Contadora Group foreign ministers in Brasilia last week. It proposes the procedures that should be followed by the control commission to verify the commitment established in the Contadora Document. Both that document and the one drawn up by the Contadora Group are based on the observations formulated by the Canadian Government regarding verification and control of the Contadora Document commitments. The Canadian Government made these observations at the request of the Contadora Group foreign ministers since that country has accumulated great experience in the area of verification and control in similar conflicts.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister stated in Brasilia that Nicaragua is willing to consider changes in the Contadora Document as long as its fundamental aspects are not modified. However, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has said that one must see what the Nicaraguan Government considers as fundamental modifications. Nicaragua has been opposed to the establishment of systems of control and verification of the commitments included in the Contadora Document.

EEC TO OPEN POLITICAL DIALOGUE ON LATIN AMERICA

PA221320 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Mar 85 pp 1 A, 9 A

[By Carlos Pineros]

[Excerpt] Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo announced yesterday that the EEC and the Andean Group will begin a political dialogue on 15 April in Brussels to search for a solution to the Latin American foreign debt (amounting to \$350 billion).

"This is an adequate framework for inaugurating and undertaking a political dialogue," Foreign Minister Ramirez Ocampo said upon his return to Bogota from Brasilia, where the 11 most indebted countries of the area met. He was referring at the time to the interim and development committees of the IMF and World Bank, which are scheduled to begin those talks during the first week in April in the United States.

"It is certain that a political dialogue will not be achieved by the committees because these are organizations that are more concerned with banking techniques; Latin America, on the other hand, believes that this subject cannot be approached only in terms of the debt, but that its consequences for the institutional system of the countries and their political stability must also be considered," Ramirez Ocampo added. However, he did not exclude the possibility that the political concerns will be presented to the IMF and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development committees. He added that the 11 most indebted countries have defined a joint Latin American position that will be presented before the Group of 24 in Washington, before the committees, before the IDB assembly in Vienna, and at the summit of the big seven to be held in Bonn during the first week in May.

Ramirez Ocampo said that the Brasilia meeting, held last weekend, denounced a strange and surprising "toughening of the creditors in the transactions to restructure the debts," even after the achievements registered in the renegotiation of the Mexican, Argentine, Brazilian, and Venezuelan obligations. The foreign minister added that the foreign ministers who met in the Brazilian capital "expressed their particular concern over the tough attitude being taken toward Argentina to alleviate the problems of the debt."

Ramirez Ocampo said that the opening of the political dialogue on Latin American indebtedness was confirmed by way of an invitation that the EEC issued to the Andean Group through Claude Cheysson, former French foreign minister and current EEC commissioner. Cheysson issued the invitation at the meeting in Brasilia with Enrique Iglesias, the current foreign minister of Uruguay, the country that holds the title of provisional secretary of the 11 Latin American countries. He said: The joint Latin American position vis-a-vis the big seven and the creditors will embody the spirit of the Cartagena Consensus drafted in June 1984, according to which we will start from the premise of joint responsibility for the debt to achieve a responsible solution between debtors and creditors.

AREA OIL-EXPORTING COUNTRIES HOLD 2-DAY MEETING

PA240230 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0047 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text2 Quito, 23 Mar (EFE) -- Ecuador, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela, the four Latin American oil-exporting countries, today decided to continue their efforts to maintain a stable oil market. This was one of the most notable agreements achieved during the 2-day meeting held in Quito by the group's energy ministers, who examined the oil market situation and decided to promote their joint cooperation in several sectors.

Javier Espinosa (Ecuador), Francisco Labastida (Mexico), Patrick Manning (Trinidad and Tobago), and Arturo Hernandez Grisanti (Venezuela), held in the Ecuadoran capital the fourth Informal Group of Latin American and Caribbean Petroleum Exporting Countries [Giplacep] ministerial meeting. Following the meeting, the ministers explained that they had analyzed the situation and tendencies of the international oil markets, as well as their effect on the group.

The Venezuelan minister presented a report on the last OPEC ministerial meeting and underscored all the member countries' constructive spirit of cooperation.

According to Hernandez Grisanti, this spirit contributes to stabilizing the oil market; he told the journalists that discipline within the group ensures price stability.

An official note issued at the end of the meeting also stressed that oil markets in the near future will depend on the exporting countries' proper application of a cautious and appropriate production and sales policy.

The four ministers agreed in the communique that neither the consumers nor the producers will benefit from abrupt variations in oil prices.

They also asserted their confidence that the international oil markets will remain stable, adding that it can be asserted that the market is responding increasingly to the exporting countries' decisions.

The Giplacep meeting reviewed and underscored the fact that oil exporting countries maintain a permanent struggle to defend their natural resources with just prices, since hydrocarbons are one of the main sources of national wealth.

The group also stated its decision to hold consultations and exchange information, hold meetings among experts, and develop cooperation projects in the oil sector.

The ministers attending the meeting stressed: We want to give our countries a better position from which to defend their common and individual interests.

The final communique issued at the conclusion of the Giplacep meeting also stressed the cordial atmosphere which prevailed at the meeting. The group's technical secretariat, assigned on a rotating basis, was transferred from Trinidad and Tobago to Ecuador.

In addition, the Venezuelan minister told the news media that they do not expect any repercussions on the oil prices due to the British National Oil Corporation's liquidation; he said that the topic was also discussed at the OPEC meeting this month.

Hernandez Grisanti also referred to the Mexican oil policy, which he said is in solidarity with OPEC. He underscored Mexico's sacrifices, regarding its export levels, to avoid exerting pressure on the market. The opposite is true of Norway and Great Britain, he added.

Lastly, Hernandez Grisanti deplored that there is not more communication among Latin American nations which, like Mexico and Venezuela, have achieved a high-level of development in their oil industry. Nevertheless, he asserted that the two nations will pursue broader cooperation in the oil sector.

Mexican Minister Francisco Labastida believes that the stability of the oil market will be strengthened in the future thanks, above all, to the cuts in OPEC sales, which have lowered the consumer countries' reserves.

The four ministers who participated in the meeting announced that they will immediately return to their countries after attending the 48-hour Giplacep meeting. The group was founded in 1983 to establish an avenue for the exchange of information and ideas and to promote cooperation among Latin American oil-exporting countries, which agreed to hold periodic meetings on the subject and carry out projects of common interest.

ALFONSIN BRIEFS PRESS ON 7-DAY U.S. VISIT

PY250155 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2150 GMT 24 Mar 85

[By NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS special correspondent]

[Text] Houston, 24 Mar (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin said today that the official mission he has headed in the United States "has done well." However, he stressed that "we need a more receptive and frank dialogue, an honorable dialogue held on an equal footing, a dialogue in which both logic and disagreements should be accepted without any sort of dependence."

On evaluating his 7-day tour of this country, the first official visit to the United States by an Argentine president in 26 years, Alfonsin pointed out that he found here the "understanding" he expected to find in connection with his country's economic problems, and "the will to support the Argentine democracy."

Alfonsin said that during the talks he held and the ceremonies during which he delivered speeches at the White House, on Capitol Hill, and before other private and official sectors, he "strengthened the government's position." Concerning the Central American situation, he argued against the belief that "a socialist government in Nicaragua may jeopardize U.S. military security." In this regard he said that it is necessary to be on the alert "to prevent any type of interference by or military presence of another power in Central America."

The Argentine president said that official and private U.S. sectors expressed their concern over the Argentine inflation rate, and that he replied to them that "the struggle against inflation is our priority target," but that "a solution cannot be found in just a few months. We hope to achieve increasingly better results." He said he described the serious problems caused by U.S. and EEC protectionism and that even though he does not expect his words to change his interlocutors' stand, "positive steps" have been taken in this regard.

Alfonsin made these statements during a press conference he held for Argentine journalists this afternoon in his room in the Meridian Hotel in Houston, the last U.S. city he will visit on his tour. Alfonsin began by saying that "we have done well. Some people back there in Argentina may think that results should come immediately or that one can return carrying all the solutions in one's bag. But obviously, this is not so, not at all."

"This is a course we have just begun to run. It is good that we know each other, that we have exchanged views directly. I believe in dialogue, in looking each other in the eye. I believe this sensation of human contact is necessary." He added that "we obviously put forth our viewpoints, our problems. In all cases we strengthened our position, which has always been the same."

He pointed out that "in the area of bilateral relations, the economic problem always turned out to be the most difficult one. We had very successful talks with the IMF and with the banks."

"I believe that the economic problems will be solved," he said. Alfonsin then said that inflation "is a horse that is difficult to break in. It is not the consequence of government efforts. It depends on several things. That is why I trust the national accord will allow us to lay the groundwork for a policy that will tend to curb the inflation rate." He then said that he was satisfied with the talks he held "with the executive branch and with the lawmakers. We tried to open new markets and we believe we will have some positive results in this area."

He explained that he also put forth "our viewpoints regarding the agriculture and live-stock sector," which in our country "is confronting a serious crisis." He then reiterated what he said in his speeches on meat production: "Our production cost for 1 ton of meat is more than \$1,000. The EEC's production cost is \$2,500. However, they have displaced us in the market by offering their product at \$1,000 per ton, in an absurd and unloyal competition." He went on to say that "we also openly told them that both the U.S. and the EEC policy of subsidies have caused a 20- to 25-percent slump in international grain prices, and that we fear prices will drop even more."

Concerning his statements on such protectionist policies, Alfonsín said: "I do not think we will make them change their philosophy, but they have the will to support the Argentine democracy," because they "realize that we are going through a difficult economic situation."

"For example, in the case of steel, they have been particularly receptive. We even went a step further and asked that the quota include some products that we hope will be taken into account," he said. The president added that "in this regard, we have taken very positive steps."

Concerning the demand by Argentina and by the Cartagena group countries that the region's foreign debt be regarded as a political issue, Alfonsín reported that "we insisted on this topic."

"Developed countries have thus far refused to consider this possibility. We explained this issue in all the talks we held, just as we did with the European governments," he said.

He then stressed that "it is absolutely necessary that we guarantee democracy" and that "the idea that the defensive needs of the United States or of the hemisphere can be met through authoritarian governments must be ruled out." Alfonsín said that he stressed this issue during the talks because "defense means democracy, defense means freedom, and it also means the need to give categorical answers to the essential demands for social justice, because to defend freedom it is necessary to have a minimum standard of living." Alfonsín said that he believes "they have begun to understand this."

Concerning the consideration of the debt as a political issue, he pointed out that "new paths have been opened and some action can be started in this regard in Europe in April, when we will meet the EEC." At the meeting "the Cartagena group will be represented by Enrique Iglesias, its 'pro tempore' secretary," he explained. "The possibility of considering the debt problem as a political issue will be discussed in that meeting," Alfonsín said.

Regarding the Latin American presidents' summit, which will address antinuclear safeguards and other topics, Alfonsín pointed out that "it is a Latin American issue that was put forth in Brasilia, where the presidents were in total agreement." However, "I believe the foreign ministers should meet previously," he added.

Asked whether the announcements he made on the evening of 23 March in connection with the oil sector policy are consistent with the policy that the Developmentalist Party administration executed between 1958 and 1961, Alfonsín replied that the current policy "has nothing to do with what may have been done in the past."

He said that "this is tied to current needs. We continue to oppose, in keeping with our party's guidelines, anything in the way of concessions. We believe that the whole matter must be handled by the Government Oil Deposits, and we reaffirm our conviction that the oil belongs to the state."

He added: "In fact, we are emphasizing something that I had announced on petroleum day: we are pursuing, a sustained increase in prospecting and exploitation because we feel that we must export, especially oil by-products." Alfonsin indicated that "this is part of the guidelines for economic growth: Agroindustry, hydrocarbons, and petrochemicals are some of the pillars of our future development. Asked whether he is concerned over the political costs which these announcements may have, Alfonsin answered: "No, because this is what suits the country best."

Regarding the Nicaraguan issue, Alfonsin stated that "any kind of interference or military presence of any power in Central America must be avoided" and wondered how a socialist government in Nicaragua could threaten U.S. military security."

Alfonsin acknowledged that he had been surprised by the welcoming speech at the White House. "I had a formal speech all ready to go" he said, smiling and prompting some laughter among the journalists when recalling the episode which finally led him to improvise his answer to Ronald Reagan's greetings.

Speaking about the proposal to reinvest the interests on foreign debts in the countries which are paying them, Alfonsin answered that "The subject has not been discussed in depth, but I think that this is how the proposal must be understood." He went on to stress that "Argentina is among the countries which can pay its obligations." Alfonsin added that "Argentina can manage to grow to some extent when its savings amount to 20 percent of the GDP. We are 6 percent short now. With savings amounting to only 14 percent of the GDP there cannot be enough investment to provide employment for the labor force, which grows every year." He said that "our current investments are barely enough to protect the capital. I really believe that all this [interest on foreign debt] must be somehow recycled and turned into investments in Latin America, something along the lines of what was once done in Europe."

Asked how the oilmen received the Argentine proposal, Alfonsin answered that he believed they received it "well. I have not spoken with them, but according to the talks we did hold [as received] I believe that there will be some offers."

Asked about the discrepancies with the United States, Alfonsin asked in turn "why we should talk about discrepancies" and proposed "to discuss points in common." He said that "our relations with the United States must be mature, based on our own independence and the understanding that there are common interests, different interests, and even opposing interests."

As to the Malvinas, the Argentine chief executive expressed his opinion that the United States should tell "Mrs Thatcher that she should deal with the issue in accordance with the UN resolution." He added: "We are not asking for mediation, but merely reflecting on what each country could do. What the United States and Great Britain's European allies, the FRG and France included, can do is insist in this regard."

ECONOMY MINISTER RETURNS; RESIGNATION RUMORED

PY221654 Paris AFP in Spanish 1624 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (AFP) -- Overwhelming rumors of the resignation of Argentine Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille have been circulating this afternoon in Buenos Aires financial circles. AFP has been unable to obtain an official or unofficial comments on this rumor.

Sourrouille returned from the United States this morning after conducting negotiations with the IMF and the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank on the refinancing of the Argentine foreign debt, the rescheduling of payments due, and the supply of new funds.

Sourrouille boarded a car immediately after exiting his plane at Ezeiza International Airport, thus avoiding journalists.

The Economy Ministry spokesman has promised to release a communique in the next few hours, but noted that this was essentially a political trip and that all talks were held within this framework. Sourrouille, former planning secretary, replaced Bernardo Grinspun as economy minister in late February.

Rumors Denied; IMF Accord Expected

PY231807 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Agreements will be concluded by Monday with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and foreign creditor banks to allow Argentina to meet payments falling due at the end of the month, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille said last night. The minister told a press conference the payments would be made after the agreements with the IMF and the creditor banks were concluded "between today and Monday." He said a new working method had been agreed with the IMF, which would be sending out a mission next week to redefine the programme for 1985.

The minister categorically denied press reports claiming he was about to resign and said he seriously doubted press reports from New York quoting the IMF as saying inflation this month would soar over 30 percent. "The IMF and other international agencies don't make that type of comment," he added.

Sourrouille also said he doubted whether there would be any change in the government's wage policies granting monthly increases equivalent to 90 percent of the increased cost of living the previous month.

On a request from governors from non-Radical ruled provinces for the government to withdraw the budget from the Lower House in order to change the amount of revenue-sharing appropriations for the provinces, Sourrouille said the government would not bow to the demand. "We have already told Justicialist legislators the budget will follow its normal course," he said.

'SUBSTANTIAL' AGREEMENT REACHED WITH CREDITOR BANKS

PY242210 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 23 Mar 85 p 16

[Text] The Argentine Government and the committee of creditor banks last night released a joint statement through the Finance Ministry. The statements reads:

"Argentine Government representatives this week met for 2 days with the working committee of the commercial banks. Several of those meetings were attended by IMF Assistant Managing Director Richard Erb.

"The two parties reached substantial agreement on the main issues concerning the documents needed to implement the previously agreed upon financial plan for 1984-85.

"The Argentine delegation informed the committee that during the talks held with IMF officials and with the IMF managing director last week, it was agreed that other adjustments should be introduced into the program.

"The talks concerning this issue will continue in Buenos Aires next week. It is expected that an agreement will in the short term be reached on the necessary adjustments.

"During the talks, the Argentine Government reiterated its determination to take action to curb inflation and lay the foundation for the improvement of the standard of living. Even though these adjustments will delay the first two IMF conditional disbursements, Economy Minister Dr Juan Vital Sourrouille reiterated the government's intention to implement all the provisions of the financial plan announced in December 1984. Pursuant to this purpose, all necessary steps shall be taken as soon as possible, including those to complete the implementation of the Public and Private Sectors Refinancing Program.

"William Rhodes, chairman of the committee of banks, reiterated his support of the financial plan for 1984-85 and expressed his desire to continue actively cooperating with Argentina and the IMF so that the plan may be successfully carried out." It should be pointed out that the first two conditional disbursements referred to in the joint statement are those corresponding to March and June, of \$235 million each, which were suspended until the targets are reformulated.

FALKLANDS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH UK POLITICIANS

PY221704 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Argentine and British politicians will hold an unofficial meeting in Bonn, FRG, next Wednesday, 27 March. They will discuss the controversial issue of the Malvinas Islands and the South Atlantic. Senator Adolfo Gass, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has asserted that they will discuss the Malvinas issue, although the main subject of the meeting will be Latin American-EEC relations. Gass said that Mrs Thatcher is the prime minister, but she is not Great Britain. He emphatically stated that the people's point of view is different from hers. Gass revealed that he has rejected an invitation from British legislators to visit London to discuss the future of the islands. He concluded by stating that if they come to Argentina, things will be different.

TRADE AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH YUGOSLAVIA

PY242250 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1548 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (NA) -- Foreign Trade Under Secretary Nestor Stancanelli today stated that "important agreements for increasing bilateral trade" were achieved with the Yugoslav mission that visited Argentina to achieve this goal. Stancanelli also reported that the negotiations held with the mission headed by Yugoslav Vice Minister for Transportation and Communications [as received] Andrej Grahor, who was accompanied by the Yugoslav ambassador in Buenos Aires, Filip Matic, and a group of private businessmen, concluded yesterday with a "satisfactory" result. In addition, Stancanelli stated that the talks with that mission were held within the boundaries of the "search for a new international economic order, in which the governments of the two countries are interested." Stancanelli also stated that over the past few days negotiations were conducted between the state-owned Argentine Railway Enterprise and Yugoslav businessmen "with the goal of transferring technology and equipment for the electrification of the railways, and also building electric locomotives here." In addition, Stancanelli noted that the agreements contemplate the possibility of a long-term program for our country to supply to Yugoslavia a significant quantity of grain, primarily soybeans. Stancanelli stated that over the 1984-85 period, Argentine exports to Yugoslavia have totaled \$30 million while imports from Yugoslavia did not even reach \$3 million, and that one of the purposes of the negotiations "was to balance the balance of payments of these two countries." Stancanelli also felt that within 2 years the trade exchange between Argentina and Yugoslavia "will total \$200 million."

COB-GOVERNMENT TALKS BEGIN, ADJOURN AT MINISTRY

PY221825 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Talks between the government and the Bolivian Labor Federation, COB, began at the Foreign Ministry at 0945 today in the presence of Bolivian Episcopal Conference representatives. The COB sent Executive Secretary Juan Lechin Oquendo, Secretary General Walter Delgadillo, and Genaro Flores, the top leader of the COB organization.

The executive branch was represented by Foreign Minister Edgar Camacho Omiste, Planning and Coordination Minister Freddy Justiniano, Industries and Commerce Minister Hugo Montero Mur, Mines and Metallurgy Minister Luis Pomier, and the labor and labor development minister. Msgr Alejandro Mestre led the delegation of the Bolivian Episcopal Conference, which offered its good offices to reopen the dialogue between the government and the workers when every other effort to bring the two parties together failed.

Now we have a report from the Foreign Ministry and will find out the status of COB-Government talks:

[Begin report] The talks between the COB and the government have been adjourned. The representatives of the two parties and of the Bolivian Episcopal Conference, which has offered its good offices, decided to adjourn the meeting until 1530 today. [end report]

COB STRIKE ENDS WITHOUT ADJUSTABLE WAGE

PY240202 Paris AFP in Spanish 0128 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Excerpts] La Paz, 23 Mar (AFP) -- The indefinite general strike which paralyzed Bolivia for 16 days was suspended here today by decision of an extraordinary meeting of union leaders who did not obtain their most important demand, a minimum salary with an adjustable scale.

In order to overcome a profound social and political crisis, the government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, accepted adding to the basic salary a 100-percent food bonus, which is 3.1 million Bolivian pesos (\$62 at the official rate and \$25.80 on the parallel market), and agreed to the demand for price controls and food supplies.

The union meeting was held amid a tense atmosphere of mutual criticism, where an attempt was made to find the people responsible for the failure of the strike that mobilized in La Paz over 15,000 mineworkers from the country's southern mines.

Before deciding to suspend the strike, the union leaders evaluated events, noting that many sectors were tired and confused due to the long struggle.

The Executive Committee of the COB headed by Juan Lechin Oquendo was labeled by radical groups as a traitor for compromising its demand for a minimum salary with an adjustable scale. Various sectors reacted by pointing out that the government followed the line established by imperialism and the IMF and did not show any intention of agreeing to the workers' demands.

Strike Wrap-Up

PY242130 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1821 GMT 24 Mar 85

[By Juan Maria Calvo]

[Text] La Paz, 24 Mar (EFE) -- Shouting: "We shall return," the 12,000 mineworkers, who for 3 weeks have been staying in La Paz, today left the seat of government, as the country prepares for the elections scheduled for 14 July.

Obviously, this is a defeat for the Bolivian labor movement. But during the farewell ceremony, which was held today, everyone was rejoicing to the sounds of Bolivian folkloric music, with shouts praising the workers' struggles, and explosions of dynamite sticks, which the mineworkers use in their work, and to protest during their demonstrations, and to cheer up their festivities.

Little by little, the outdoor stadium, where the mineworkers have been holding their meetings over the past few days, emptied as the mineworkers rode out in trucks to return, massed in standing positions, to their bases in the Altiplano, in the Oruro and Potosi areas, in journeys that could take up to 10 hours.

COB Secretary General Walter Delgadillo has told EFE that this is not a defeat, that the labor movement has been strengthened and is united. The COB has staged the longest general strike on record in Bolivia, one that lasted 16 days.

A minimum wage increase, from 935,000 pesos to 4,035,000 pesos (some \$30 on the black market), promises to control the prices of staples, to improve supplies, and little more has been achieved.

Veteran COB leader, Juan Lechin Oquendo, failed to participate this morning in the farewell ceremony, and some observers have assured that he could lose his post during the next special COB congress which will be held soon.

Dawn came quietly in La Paz today and, despite it being a Sunday, more people were out on the streets than on previous days, while a military band played marches and patriotic songs in the Del Prado promenade in downtown La Paz.

Tomorrow, Monday, all normal activities will be resumed. Nevertheless, the long strike has caused, according to official estimates, losses of nearly \$150 million, a huge figure if it is taken into account that exports in 1984 totaled some \$700 million.

Of course, the COB failed to achieve the overthrow of constitutional President Hernan Siles Zuazo, as Lechin had demanded, and the proclamation of a workers government, as Delgadillo had called for. In addition, the workers failed to achieve a minimum inflation-adjusted salary, which was the main goal of this mobilization.

The government has emerged somewhat strengthened from this strike, especially after it positioned the Army on the streets on 20 March to prevent La Paz from being cut off, as happened for 7 hours on 19 March.

But the institution that gained the most prestige, although not everyone remembers to voice thanks for its services, is the Bolivian Catholic Church. Through its mediation an agreement between the government and the COB was achieved when it looked like the stoppage was becoming worse with millions of workers throughout the country threatening to hold a hunger strike.

Upon learning about the suspension of the strike late 23 March, La Paz archbishop, Msgr Jorge Manrique, asked the people to uphold the spirit of peace, harmony, and brotherhood, casting hatred from their hearts.

Recalling a phrase voiced by Siles Zuazo when the government accepted the mediation of the church to resume the talks with the COB, Msgr Manrique added that neither winners nor losers have emerged from this confrontation.

This dialogue has been as important as the one also achieved by the church in November, during which a political accord to move up the general elections by 1 year, which 71 registered parties are preparing for, was reached.

Because of the strike, the elections had to be postponed from 16 June to 14 July but, thus far, the presidential inauguration date, that is, 6 August, is being maintained.

A member of the electoral court today stated that a possible suspension of municipal elections, owing to the difficulty of preparing the two elections because of administrative problems, will have to be reviewed.

MEDIA UNIONS DECRY INFORMATION MINISTER'S ACTION

PY230135 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpt] On the page entitled: "The Conflict Among Bolivian Television Workers Continues," (EL DIARIO) publishes two documents issued by the National Television Workers Union and by the Trade Union Confederation of Radio and Television workers. In the documents, the workers criticize Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena for having ordered the resumption of the transmission of Bolivian Television Station Channel 7.

In the documents, the workers denounce acts of persecution against members of these trade union confederations, and term the minister's attitude to restore the services of the national television enterprise as shameless. The documents are signed by Edgardo Vazquez and Felix Espinoza. Vazquez is a high-ranking member of the National Board of the Revolutionary Party of the Nationalist Left. Espinoza is also an activist of Juan Lechin Oquendo's party.

Minister Refutes Charges

PY221926 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Charges by several leaders of the COB against Hernan Siles Zuazo's constitutional government were made public over the past few hours. These charges hold the government responsible for trying to break up the labor union movement.

In this regard, official government spokesman and Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena has charged the extremist leadership of the COB of holding the government responsible for something that is their exclusive responsibility.

In stating that he doubts that the current disagreements within the COB regarding the scope of the general strike will lead to the breakup of the Bolivian labor sector, Minister Rueda Pena stated that only Lechin Oquendo, some leaders of the United Revolutionary Directorate [DRU], and Trotskyist leaders are to blame for the fact that many union leaders are confronting the national leaderships.

The minister stated that Lechin and his followers are advocating political objectives that are not in keeping with the feelings of the majority of the workers. For example, he said, Lechin has demanded the president's resignation, but this request was immediately rejected by the miners rank and file.

The minister then stated that, as a consequence, it is not the government but the very Trotskyist collectivism that is to blame for the danger of a breakup that now threatens the labor movement.

Rueda Pena said that the government will make its utmost effort to prevent the division of the Bolivian labor movement.

'LEOPARDS' DISMANTLE COCAINE FACTORIES

PY222210 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The Mobile Units for Rural Areas or the Leopards, as they are also called have been working arduously in the Cochabamba Valley and with great success having dismantled 100 cocaine factories in the last few days. The antidrug unit, which on this occasion was headed by the president of the National Anti-Drug Commission, Colonel Carlos Fernandez Gonzalez, also seized vehicles and drugs.

It must be noted that despite the fact that the Leopards had caused the drug traffickers to flee a few months ago, the drug traffickers returned to the area to continue processing coca leaves.

Col Fernandez says that it is necessary to maintain a permanent presence of the forces of order in the area in order to effectively fight drug trafficking.

Col Fernandez also told us about a draft decree which will set the regulations for the sale of coca leaves in Bolivia:

[Begin recording] The decree will try to regulate coca sales for legal uses. We mainly want to establish a better relation between consumers and producers, because since there is a great demand for coca leaves for drug trafficking, the coca leaf price keeps increasing notably. Therefore it is very difficult for peasants or mineworkers, who traditionally are very used to chewing coca, to buy it. [end recording]

NEVES' CONDITION IMPROVING; PNEUMONIA CONFIRMED

PY230305 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] President Tancredo Neves is recovering well, but doctors today positively confirmed that the infection that affected the president was really pneumonia.

The doctors are giving the president a [words indistinct] (?broth without fat) together with other components which they did not specify.

However, that was not the reason for which they removed the naso-gastric decompression tube which served to collect the stomach secretions of the president. His irregular (intestinal functions), which the doctors considered to be insufficient, prompted them to insert a [words indistinct] drain to be able to measure his [words indistinct]-urinary flux.

Will Work From Hospital

PY231502 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Report from the Brasilia Military Base Hospital by Carlos Rodrigues]

[Excerpts] As of Monday, 25 March, President Tancredo Neves will start to make decisions regarding the country's future, according to Agriculture Minister Pedro Simon, who is also senator for Porto Alegre. The minister, who was here at the Military Base Hospital where President Tancredo Neves is continuing to recover, said that as of Monday Tancredo will start to give instructions to the members of the new government.

Aeronautic Minister Brigadier Moreira Lima was also here at the Military Base Hospital, and he reiterated statements that were heard here throughout the day.

[Begin Moreira recording] He is very well, very well indeed. His recovery is excellent, excellent. [end recording]

On Monday, Vice President Jose Sarney will hold a meeting with Tancredo Neves here at the hospital. It will be a working meeting to decide on the next steps that the new government will take.

Newspaper Report in Error

PY231900 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1600 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Report by Newton Flora from the military hospital in Brasilia]

[Excerpts] President Tancredo Neves' health is excellent, according to the medical report issued around 1100 today. It states that his condition is developing normally on his third post-surgery day. All tests made during the past few hours show that his general condition is very good.

Regarding the article published in the daily JORNAL DO BRASIL stating that a mistake was made during the first operation, press adviser Antonio Brito has said that physicians Walter Pinotti and Rezende Alves have told him that the second operation had nothing to do with the first one. He thus wanted to deny the rumor published by JORNAL DO BRASIL today.

President Tancredo Neves' intestines continue to function with the implanted drain. The president has lost weight, although the amount was not revealed. There is talk that he lost 10 kilos.

This afternoon Tancredo will have a cup of tea, and either this afternoon or tomorrow he will be transferred to the hospital's presidential suite.

President Neves could be released from hospital either before or after 28 March, depending on his condition. If his health is good, he might be released before [words indistinct] according to newspapers it could happen on 28 March. [Words indistinct] today was the message that Tancredo sent to Jose Sarney at Planalto Palace and which was read by presidential adviser Antonio Brito:

[Begin Brito recording] Brasilia, 23 March 1985.

Dear Sarney, the country is witnessing an example of irreproachable moral conduct, an example which my dear friend is showing in exercising the presidency of the Republic. In politics an example is more important than a speech. A speech, due to its nature, is ephemeral, that is, its effects end with its reading no matter how eloquent and opportune its text. An example, however, contributes to the ethical strengthening of the conscience of our people who, with their solidarity, have helped me to endure these difficult hours. Your example, President Sarney, will go down in history. My cordial greetings to Marly. [Sarney's wife]

ACTING PRESIDENT CARRIES OUT NEVES' DIRECTIVES

PY221408 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1000 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Acting President Jose Sarney has spoken with the press and said that his mission, basically, is to follow the directives drawn up by Tancredo Neves, and that he is doing this to the letter.

[Begin Carlos Rodrigues report from Brasilia] The nation can rest assured and confident, because the vice president knows his obligations and duties and he will discharge them fully. This statement was made by the acting president, Jose Sarney, during a meeting yesterday afternoon with journalists accredited to Planalto Palace. He said that the government directives previously drawn up by President Tancredo Neves are being fully implemented. Jose Sarney has made some recommendations to the cabinet ministers asking them to follow the guidelines contained in the document prepared by Tancredo Neves and read to them at the first cabinet meeting on Sunday, 17 March.

Sarney praised the firm attitude of Finance Minister Francisco Dornelles toward the Brazil Investment Company and said that the federal government will under no circumstances release funds to bail out enterprises facing difficulties, as in the case of the Sulbrasileiro group. The acting president has also asked Justice Minister Fernando Lyra to keep the public informed about developments in the Brazil Investment case.

Regarding the messages and initiatives of the Figueiredo government now being processed in Congress, Jose Sarney has ordered that all of them should be scrutinized closely to determine whether they are compatible with the program of the new government. Since Monday, the acting president has been meeting separately at Planalto Palace with the new government ministers. Today, he will receive Debureaucratization Minister Paulo Lustosa, Land Affairs Minister Nelson Ribeiro, Administration Minister Aluizio Alves, and Science and Technology Minister Renato Archer. These are the first formal contacts between the administrators of the new Republic to discuss the measures that are to be adopted in the initial period of the new government. [end report]

SARNEY EXPECTS NEVES TO START GIVING ORDERS

PY251134 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Report from Brasilia by reporter Carlos Rodrigues]

[Text] Acting President Jose Sarney has told Radio Bandeirantes that President Tancredo Neves is well and that he will start giving orders to his administration this week despite the fact that he will remain in hospital. Sarney granted an interview last night after visiting the president, his wife, and other relatives.

[Begin recording] [Sarney] The president is recovering normally and his health is excellent. We expect him to be able to discuss some government matters this week.

[Question indistinct]

[Sarney] No, I have tried to shield the president from any problem. I believe that it is the duty of his friends to see that his recovery is undisturbed and his privacy must be respected, so it is better for him not to worry about government matters. We are trying to solve the present problems. However, our greatest concern is the president's health. [end recording]

The weekend passed very calmly in Brasilia. The medical reports said that the president is recovering very well. The president was fed more substantially yesterday: He drank yogurt, soup, and ate jelly and fruits.

The first photograph of the president since 14 March, which was promised for yesterday, was postponed for this morning. Therefore, in a few hours the country will be able to see the first picture of the president in hospital. Tancredo Neves will also receive Acting President Jose Sarney today here at the hospital. The first talks about the next steps of the government may be held during this visit.

GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BAIL OUT BANKRUPT COMPANIES

PY221427 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1000 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The government needs money. Whereas in the past some was spent bailing out bankrupt businesses, this will no longer happen, Acting President Jose Sarney has promised. Money collected by the government will be used to pay debts.

February revenues amounted to more than 6 trillion cruzeiros, with a 3-percent real growth. The Congress-approved fiscal budget will have to be reviewed, because it was calculated on the basis of an annual inflation rate of 120 percent, a completely unrealistic assumption. The savings to be made by the budget cuts amount to 4.3 trillion cruzeiros.

PLANE SALE TO UK DOES NOT CHANGE LANDING BAN

PY221840 Paris AFP in Spanish 0437 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 21 Mar (AFP) -- The sale of the Brazilian-made Tucano training aircraft to Great Britain, which was announced in London today, will not change the Brazilian Government's position on banning the landing on Brazilian territory of British planes en route to the Malvinas Islands. This was officially announced in Brasilia today.

The chief of the Commercial Promotion Division of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, Luis Vallarinho, said that the British Royal Air Force chose the Tucano only because of its technical features.

[Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese in its 1000 GMT newscast on 22 March reported that "the Brazilian Aeronautics Company, Embraer, has won an international bid for the sale of Tucano model training aircraft to the British Royal Air Force. The 145 units to be bought will be assembled in Ireland.]

EMBRAER TO PRODUCE SUPERSONIC PLANE

PY230245 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Mar 85 p 23

[Text] Brasilia -- Embraer has a supersonic fighter plane project which is only awaiting a decision by the Brazilian Air Force to begin the production. The airplane is in a position to compete with the most modern of its type as far as performance is concerned, and the design, architecture, and engineering works are totally Brazilian. This report was released yesterday by Embraer President Osires Silva, on learning that Tucano planes had been selected in bidding on military training planes for the British Royal Air Force.

ARMS INDUSTRY WILL NOT SUPPLY NICARAGUA

PY231504 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Arms industry businessmen have disclosed that arms will not be supplied to Nicaragua, because the government prohibits the sale of arms to countries involved in conflicts.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA CONCLUDES 8-DAY VISIT

Addresses Sao Paulo Chamber

PA212330 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Nicaraguan president and commander of the revolution, was decorated today with the (Anquieta) medal, the highest decoration granted by the Sao Paulo, Brazil municipal chamber. In a plenary session, President Ortega also received a certificate of gratitude from the city of Sao Paulo. He also received a message of solidarity with the people of Nicaragua from the bishop of Sao Paulo.

Let us listen to excerpts of the speech delivered by Commander Ortega who was very touched and who received ovations on several occasions.

[Begin recording] The battlefield is very clear: On one side there are the U.S. rulers, isolated from the world and from their own people. They insist on imposing a military solution in Nicaragua and on finding legal justifications for their criminal actions against Nicaragua. They are trying to establish a policy, a philosophy that would work against Latin America, because whatever they do today against Nicaragua they can do tomorrow against any Latin American country. [applause] We have been very happy during our stay here in Brazil -- in Brasilia, in Rio de Janeiro, and now here in Sao Paulo -- because in all these places we have had the gratifying experience of discovering that all of the Brazilian political forces agree that it is necessary to defend the Nicaraguan people. [applause]

The Brazilian position is stronger because all Brazilian political forces support the same position, and this makes the Latin American and the Nicaraguan position stronger. If only one or two Brazilian parties supported the struggle of the Nicaraguan people, we would be really concerned. Our visit to Brazil is undoubtedly due to the efforts and the struggle of the Brazilian people. We have also come to Brazil because the people who make up its government, such as President Tancredo Neves [applause], know how to interpret the feelings of Brazilians. On the two occasions, President Tancredo Neves, at this difficult moment [applause] [words indistinct].

We have visited Rio [de Janeiro] at the invitation of Governor Leonel Brizola, who has been associated with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people. We have visited Sao Paulo at the invitation of Governor Franco Montoro. [applause] We feel happy, satisfied, and proud to have been invited by Governor Franco Montoro. The struggle that we Central Americans are waging in Central America is not easy. It is complex, difficult, and dangerous. Danger is looming over Nicaragua. At any moment something serious could occur. At any moment there could be a direct intervention by U.S. troops. We say this because it is a fact. How can Latin America defend Nicaragua? It must be united to defend Nicaragua. [applause] It must do this by adding and not subtracting forces. [applause] [end recording]

Urges Stronger SELA Role

PA221430 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega found an ally in Sao Paulo Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns with regard to his idea of strengthening SELA and turning it into an alternative to the OAS. The Nicaraguan president met with the cardinal behind closed doors at the latter's home today and explained his plan to convince Latin American nations to unite around SELA to make it a strong organization. During the meeting, the topic of the relations between the Vatican and the Sandinist government was not discussed at all because, according to the clergyman, that is not a matter under his jurisdiction. Cardinal Arns said: I prefer to discuss Latin American interdependence for promoting peace and preventing the intervention of third parties. Commander Daniel Ortega also made political contacts today. Among others, he met with Luis Igacio da Silva president of the Deomocratic Labor Party, PT, and discussed the favorable impression he received from his meeting with the new Brazilian foreign minister, Olavo Setubal. During a meeting with Brazilian businessmen, it was announced that the Nicaraguan Government began negotiations to purchase a factory to produce fuel alcohol from sugarcane at a rate of 120,000 liters per day. The Nicaraguan Government is also interested in Brazilian products in the fields of civil construction, oil exploration, heavy technology, and food. On Wednesday, Commander Daniel Ortega was decorated and honored at city hall. During the ceremony, he rejected U.S. intervention in Latin America.

Departs for Nicaragua

PY222105 Paris AFP in Spanish 2028 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo, 22 Mar (AFP) -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today concluded his 8-day official visit to Brazil. He departed for his country at 1340 GMT.

PINOCHET PLEDGES TO SEEK FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY

PY221615 Paris AFP in Spanish 2303 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 21 Mar (AFP) -- Chilean President Augusto Pinochet today stated that his administration and the Armed Forces will not forsake their goal to bring about a system of truly democratic freedom. We will not turn our backs on the commitment we have undertaken and sworn to fulfill, the chief executive said, recalling the military coup staged in September 1973 that toppled Salvador Allende's left-wing government. Pinochet added: The work that started then is aimed at laying the foundation of the country's political, economic, and social development so as to strengthen a system of truly democratic freedom.

Pinochet made these remarks at a ceremony during which the Air Force decorated him with the Grand Cross for Air Force Merit on the occasion of its 55th anniversary. Air Force Commander in Chief General Fernando Matthei reiterated his loyalty to the military government and outlined the service achievements despite the economic problems and international pressure from those who have tried to interfere in our foreign and domestic policies.

Lauded by FACH Chief

PY221948 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The Chilean Air Force [FACH] has decorated President Augusto Pinochet with the Grand Cross of Air Force Merit of Chile. The decoration was bestowed upon him by Air Force Commander in Chief General Fernando Matthei, who is also a member of the government junta.

The FACH yesterday celebrated its 55th anniversary. The decoration ceremony was held in the O'Higgins Hall at La Moneda Palace. In attendance were Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal, high-ranking officers of the three branches of the Armed Forces, including those of the forces of order, and the FACH generals. During the decoration ceremony, Gen Matthei delivered the opening address, emphasizing the recognition of the historic administration of President Pinochet and the support that he has given the Chilean Air Force. Gen Matthei stated that the task of the chief of state has not been an easy one because his administration has been marked by adversities.

[Begin Matthei recording -- broadcast in progress] ...The shadow of an international conflict which could have turned into a tragic reality but which thanks to his calmness as a governor today has an epilogue, [words indistinct] and even admiration by the entire world. Natural disasters have been a tragic feature of our country. Nevertheless, this has not kept the country from continuing its sustained march toward the goals of progress and institutional order, justice, and spiritual tranquillity for all Chileans.

Your Excellency, Mr President, you have tirelessly coped with every situation at the command of a firm work team that is inspired by your example, your optimism, and your unyielding faith in the grandeur of our fatherland. [end recording]

Gen Matthei added that thanks to the president's attitude, our country has been able to overcome all obstacles. In this way, notable progress has been achieved in every field of national activity.

EL DIARIO CLAIMS ALFONSIN INTERFERES WITH SPEECHES

PY221111 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Mar 85 p 15

[Editorial: "Alfonsin's Incoherence"]

[Text] According to a report by the Spanish news agency EFE datelined 20 March in Washington and attributed to Enrique Merino, Argentine President Raul Alfonsin pressured U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz to "show a new attitude toward Central America" and "to restore democracy in Chile and Paraguay." In the two speeches he made to the OAS and the U.S. Congress, Raul Alfonsin advocated the principles, not always shared by Argentina, of nonintervention in domestic affairs of other nations and the self-determination of peoples.

It is difficult to understand how Mr Alfonsin can reconcile the principles of self-determination and nonintervention with his nearly mournful request for U.S. intervention; not to stop the spread of Nicaragua's communism which Mr Alfonsin seems to want to preserve at all costs, but at the same time to illegally overthrow the Paraguayan Government elected in keeping with the Paraguayan Constitution by Paraguayan voters whose democratic seniority is much greater than that which the Argentine president can claim for his own country, and without much success at that.

Paraguayan democracy concerns Paraguayans; it is not to be shaped by any foreign country, just as the Paraguayan economy is not shaped by any foreign country, either. Throughout our history, we Paraguayans have resolutely defended our liberties and independence in episodes of unmatched courage and generosity. In this regard, we never needed anyone to speak for us, and if anybody ever illegitimately dared do that, we never tolerated it.

The ideas of Mr Alfonsin are respected in our country, insofar as they are applied in the Argentine Republic, where he enjoys broad, legitimate electoral support. But his ideas have not been put forth here and this country does not want to try them. Furthermore, this country does not accept any kind of foreign leadership. Any reference to our internal affairs, a matter of our own exclusive concern, is an inadmissible intervention. It also reflects the false doctrine of someone who invokes the nonintervention principle to defend his communist friends but who disregards the same principle when he refers to a true and -- perhaps this is what has actually hurt him -- efficient democracy.

Paraguayan democracy is something to be dealt with by Paraguayans. The government of this country will continue to manage Paraguayan affairs for as long as the Paraguayan people wish, and it will leave power when the Paraguayan people decide, in keeping with the Paraguayan Constitution and Paraguayan law. We are interested in the Argentine democracy only as satisfied spectators of an interesting process, but in no way, and this is categorical, do we take the Argentine democracy as an example or guiding light.

The indulgence which Mr Alfonsin may show toward some of his fellow party members and those of Daniel Ortega and his desire to see them occupy the Government House in Paraguay are dangerous factors within the current framework of international relations because it is obvious to a marked majority of Paraguayans that those who are running to Alfonsin seeking support for intervention in Paraguay are merely unacceptable "turn-coats."

It is possible that Mr Alfonsin's incoherence has prompted the Americans to remain cold and distant because Reagan and Shultz, being able politicians, can hardly fail to notice the true meaning of a call for intervention in Chile and Paraguay, but not in communist Nicaragua. As for ourselves, we no longer harbor any doubts.

Argentine Envoy Denies Allegation

PY230120 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 22 Mar 85 p 12

[Text] "In order to clarify matters I can assure you that at no time did President Alfonsin refer to the internal situation of any American country," Argentine Ambassador to Paraguay Raul Quijano has told ULTIMA HORA, replying to a report by the EFE News Agency that the Argentine leader had allegedly exerted pressure on the U.S. president to use his "policies to force a redemocratization" of Paraguay and Chile. Quijano added: "That report was not confirmed by any concrete fact; it was just a commentary by an EFE reporter on the meeting between Reagan and Alfonsin, during which other subjects were discussed. Besides, there were journalists from other news agencies present at the meeting and none of them reported what EFE published. In all the 20-odd speeches and press conferences granted by President Alfonsin in the United States, he did not mention anything about the internal situation of any Latin American country. No domestic situation of any country was discussed. It was simply a comment by the EFE journalist."

Quijano also remarked that the agency had reported that Alfonsin had exerted pressure on Reagan, "which is an improbable situation.... How could we exert pressure on the U.S. President? That is the journalist's own interpretation of matters. Maybe he is a person that has just arrived from Buenos Aires, after being a correspondent there, and maybe he is still very involved in the whole Argentine situation, and therefore his imagination must have stretched too much...at no time were there even any suggestions about such a matter, nothing at all," the Argentine ambassador said. "I understand perfectly well all the uneasiness caused by this matter, but it has only been reported by the EFE News Agency, which grantedly is an important news agency, but there are other important ones which did not report on this matter," Quijano concluded.

BELAUNDE SAYS FOREIGN DEBT TO BE RENEGOTIATED

PY242015 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2111 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Lima, 23 Mar (EFE) -- President Fernando Belaunde today stated that this year Peru will conduct a preliminary renegotiation of its foreign debt, which totals nearly \$14 billion, with a firm desire to bequeath a well-ordered structure, free of startling factors, to the next Peruvian administration. After the elections are held on 14 April, the winner, as customary, will assume office on 28 July. The president added that there is no danger that the credits contracted by Peru will be suspended, and that the debt to the development banks is being punctually paid, for which reason there is no need to refinance. The president said that the negotiations that Peruvian Economy Minister Guillermo Garrido Lecca is currently conducting with the Paris Club are well directed. Garrido Lecca will also pay a visit to Moscow to discuss the debt with the USSR. Nevertheless, Peru has failed to pay the interest accrued on its debt with the private banks since mid-1984.

President Belaunde today left for Cuzco Department where he will open a copper mine in Tintaya, at an altitude of 4,200 meters, a mine that will produce 50,000 tons of refined copper yearly with an income totaling \$100 million. A total of \$326 million has been invested in the mine. Belaunde will also visit Puno Department, which borders on Bolivia, where he will open an airport in the town of Juliaca, a road linking Pomata and Yunguyo, and a number of dwellings in the city of Puno, on Lake Titicaca. Puno is the capital of Puno Department.

HEALTH MINISTER RESIGNS; SUCCESSOR NAMED

PY231306 Lima Cadena America Television in Spanish 0230 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Dr Carlos Bazan Zender is the new health minister. He replaces Juan Franco Ponce, who resigned from his post a few days ago. This announcement was made by Prime Minister Luis Percovich Roca after the cabinet meeting. He explained that Bazan Zender, currently deputy health minister, will take up his new post next week. Percovich also said that President Belaunde expressed regrets over Franco Ponce's resignation at the cabinet meeting.

CITE WORKERS ACCEPT GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL

PY251146 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The strike of the Insectorial Confederation of State Workers [CITE] has been virtually resolved. CITE workers reportedly reached an agreement with the government this afternoon by accepting the government proposal. It has been learned that the majority of the CITE rank and file reportedly support the lifting of the 19-day strike. The government has reportedly satisfied most of the state workers' demands.

EIGHT TERRORISTS KILLED IN LA MAR PROVINCE

PY201135 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Security forces engaged in several clashes with terrorists in various areas of La Mar Province, in Ayacucho. As a result Corporal Fermin Alfaro Herrera and eight terrorists were killed, according to our correspondent, Mario Cueto Cardenas. In the meantime, Labor Minister Joaquin Leguia confirmed that four terrorists attacked his home last night. The minister added that these repudiable acts seek to thwart the electoral process.

SANGUINETTI DISCUSSES NATIONAL TRANSITION

PM221241 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 13 Mar 85 p 10

[Interview with President Sanguinetti by Martin Prieto in Montevideo -- date not given]

Question: Mr President, how do you view the wave of strikes with which you begin your term?

Answer: The strikes, the wave which marked the end of the dictatorship and which to some extent also characterizes the beginning of the democratic process, are a consequence of the 11 years of dictatorship. On the one hand, there is a kind of turbulent revival of trade union life; on the other, we note tremendous manifestations of immaturity in the trade union leadership. Note that an airline strike when the foreign delegations have not yet left and when that state enterprise's new management has not yet been appointed, because no military commander's orders are carried out, is a demonstration of supreme immaturity, of supreme disregard for the country's feelings. The legacy of the dictatorship is a badly managed, badly developed, and badly controlled trade union situation.

Question: And the opposition's attempt to defeat you in parliament because of differences over the amnesty law?

Answer: We have made every effort to secure a government of national unity; we have offered posts in the government, we have offered posts in the autonomous bodies, we have offered all the opposition parties in a generous manner almost unprecedented in the country's history, the opportunity to join the government. I have not had the response for which I hoped, but neither do I feel disappointed.

Parliament has begun by handling the amnesty issue hastily and trying to make it a political banner, which, as such, is a big mistake. In Uruguay 95 percent of the political prisoners were detained for struggling against democracy and not for struggling against the dictatorship, and so they are all prisoners from before 1983, before the coup. Nevertheless, we believe that the country should now grant a generous amnesty to begin a new stage (The law was promulgated by the Uruguayan president last Saturday, a few hours after granting this interview). Unfortunately, the majority sector of the National party and the Front are pressing on with a total and unrestricted amnesty which, according to the election result, is unpopular and supported only by a minority in the country, you can see this if you add up the groups advocating an unrestricted amnesty. And this is not a response to an intransigent attitude on the part of the government; worse than that, it is parliamentary arrogance toward a government which has sought reconciliation.

We have never said that the prisoners would not be released; all that we are saying is that prisoners who have committed murder should be released at another time -- soon, but at another time, and also through a procedure other than amnesty, which means the total expunction of crimes. It should be realized that if anyone contributed decisively to the military's invasion of political life it was those who in their day believed in violent government which comes into being after 11 years of dictatorship clearly must not be confronted, much less weakened, with such sensitive issues.

Question: How would you define the Uruguayan model for emerging from a military dictatorship, as different from the Argentine or Brazilian models?

Answer: Uruguay has had a process of emergence which we have seen developing since 1980, in the plebiscite which rejected the military reform of the Constitution. It is very clear that there was a strategy which aimed from 1980 at achieving a progressive politicization of the country, the reaffirmation of the parties, and then the negotiation with the military supported by the popular mobilization. This was the tactical line parallel to a strategic line which always considered that there would be no democratic solution in Uruguay except through an agreement with the military which would make possible a negotiated solution. This could have come before 1984, but the government would have come into being with absolutely unacceptable constraints. The negotiation was conducted and strengthened out until the final solution which we found at the naval club, because we came up with a situation in which there were no constraints on the legislative power on its functions, nor did the executive power have any on its power, nor did the judiciary have any on its independence. This is objective: No one can prove that any restriction emerged in the naval club agreement. The fact that, for instance, it envisaged acceptance of the survival of the concept of a state of insurrection [declarable by the government if necessary], which is the same as that which exists in the Spanish Constitution, give or take a word, could be disputed as establishing a legal instrument or power of the executive, but at any rate it is not a military attribute, since that power is given to the executive branch, and parliament will be responsible for approving or lifting it.

Nothing emanated from the naval club which would limit the powers of government or parliament. That was essential for us; it was a matter of effecting a transition by achieving the essential thing: That an Army which was politically beleaguered but which did not feel morally defeated as the Argentine Army was after the Malvinas war should actually hand over power. And that has enabled us to recover the democratic state fully and completely.

It has been 3 workdays since the government was installed, and all forms of censorship that existed have been lifted, all existing restrictions on all citizens' departure from or entry into the country have been lifted, the Communist Party and all banned organizations have been legalized, and a national pacification law has been submitted to the Congress which includes an amnesty and also contains the ratification of the San Jose international convention on human rights, which even accepts the international jurisdiction of any court regarding human rights. We have submitted a bill establishing legal process for the protection of civil rights and another establishing the right to legal defense from the time of arrest; the country is enjoying its freedom to the fullest.

Question: Was it not agreed at the naval club that the three commanders of the Armed Forces should remain in their posts for a year?

Answer: That never happened, and that report never circulated much in Uruguay. It has circulated abroad. And not even the opponents of the naval club agreement used that report in the election campaign. It is common knowledge that the commanders said that their posts were at our disposal, and I confirmed them in them for many reasons, the foremost of which is that if we succeed in agreeing on the terms of generals than they at this moment; especially because the removal of these three commanders would only entail their replacement by other generals belonging as much to the previous regime as they do. There is no possibility of inventing a general or colonel; they must be taken from the professional ranks in which they were trained. The important thing is not the people but their conduct.

What matters is that those generals who belonged to the previous regime should now act within the subordination which they have accepted.

I personally believe that, apart from being very good for the solution, the naval club agreement was also very good from this viewpoint: That the Uruguayan Army accepted its subordination to the civil power through an agreement after a prior face-to-face discussion between the politicians and the military. It is not a situation in which one side deems itself victorious and the other, defeated, withdraws to plot in a spirit of revenge the moment when it will be able to act again. Military subordination was publicly and explicitly accepted.

Question: Will your government, like the Argentine Government, put on trial people presumed responsible for the dictatorship's crimes?

Answer: In these things it is not good to follow foreign examples. In Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Colombia, and Spain there was no process of trying the military who previously held power. Argentina is an exceptional case and is in keeping with the exceptional nature of the dictatorship. Here we can say that there will be no review in a spirit of revenge. This does not mean that any crime committed beyond what might be warlike circumstances cannot be dealt with by the law.

ECONOMY MINISTER DEPARTS FOR VIENNA IDB MEETING

PY220145 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Ricardo Zebrino today departed for Vienna where an international meeting of the IDB will be held. There, he will contract international financial authorities as a first step in renegotiating the Uruguayan foreign debt that amounts to nearly \$5 billion.

INTERIOR MINISTER DISCUSSES LABOR CONFLICTS

PY230155 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Labor Minister Hugo Fernandez Faingold has told Radio Carve that the democratic government has had neither a honeymoon nor a truce of any kind because in 22 days it has had to solve 44 labor conflicts.

Faingold said that all Uruguayans must try to create the right atmosphere to find just solutions. He stressed that between 18 and 20 daily hours of work are devoted to the negotiations with workers and businessmen. He said that everyone must reflect and make an effort to raise real salaries, because the measures enforced by the government will only tend to increase nominal salaries.

ARMY TESTS ISRAELI-MADE MISSILE SYSTEM

PA160035 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1921 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Caracas, 15 Mar (DPA) -- Venezuela has just unveiled its first missile system, which will be used to defend its borders with Colombia, Brazil, and Guyana. Tests were carried out yesterday in the northwestern region of Quisire in the State of Zulia and were presided over by Army Commander General Jose Antonio Olavarria.

The missiles were purchased from Israel and assembled in Venezuela. The system includes three main elements: the chassis [los chasis], the multibarreled rocket launchers, and the radar system, which is equipped with Swiss-made computers.

The new units will form part of the "Jose Gregorio Monagas" missile artillery group operating in La Concepcion, Zulia State.

During yesterday's tests, 36 rockets installed in 2 rocket launchers placed on 1 of 6 AMX 13 chassis, which are similar to the armored tanks used by the Venezuelan Army, were fired. Each rocket has a range of 36 km, has a capacity for destruction covering a 150-meter radius, and carries 40 kg of explosives that produce fragmentation.

The demonstration was carried out by Venezuelan Army officers and soldiers, and 12 Israeli experts, whose Israeli Military Industries (IMI), manufactured the "LAR 160" system. With regard to the chassis, the AMX 13 tanks can travel at up to 100 km per hour.

It has been reported that the radar has a 200 km reception capacity, and that several other units of this type will be installed along the vast Venezuelan border. A major portion of the system is already in Venezuela, and launching pads are being constructed in different areas along the border.

NICARAGUAN ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL ON ECONOMY, U.S.

PA242004 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1715 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Caracas, 24 Mar (EFE) -- Nicaragua's economy is rapidly declining due to the U.S. Government's boycott against international loans, Mauricio Diaz, vice president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, has said here. Diaz, a member of the Popular Social Christian Party [PPSC], is attending a congress in Caracas on liberation of the peoples, self-determination, and the international community's responsibility, along with 60 delegates from the 5 continents.

According to the PPSC leader, the U.S. policy, which isolates his country economically, is causing a shortage of staples and, as a result, there is a climate of dissatisfaction that weakens support for the Sandinist government junta. Diaz criticized the desire expressed by President Ronald Reagan to destroy Nicaragua's present democratic political system, adding that the contras have failed to install themselves in even a small area of the national territory. However, he added that the mistakes made by the FSLN, especially in connection with the Catholic Church, have led to an increase in the support for those groups. Furthermore, Diaz added, the lack of a clear foreign policy has made us look unconditionally close to the Soviet bloc, creating confusion in international public opinion, even though we are anti-imperialist, regardless of our political system.

Diaz asserted that the processes of social and economic transformation wrought in his country cannot be dumped in the trash heap of history, and he expressed his certainty that a military solution would never improve the democratic system but, on the contrary, would lead to a very harmful retrogression.

ATTORNEY GENERAL MEETS WITH U.S. COUNTERPART

FL231210 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0304 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Washington, D.C., 22 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Attorney General Sergio Garcia Ramirez said here today that the investigation into crimes committed in Mexico falls under the jurisdiction of Mexican authorities, and underscored that cooperation with U.S. authorities would be through the providing of information.

At a press conference after meeting with U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, Garcia Ramirez said the meeting had been cordial, and that all that we have reached agreement on is strictly in compliance with the laws of the two countries. He underscored that we have agreed to strengthen programs in order to improve them and adjust them to changing circumstances, adding that this policy had never been discontinued.

Garcia Ramirez said the investigation into the murder of U.S. agent Enrique Camarena falls under the Mexican authorities jurisdiction who will inform those who need to know.

Relations between the two countries, he added, will be open, honest, and frank, with a faithful sense of cooperation. Garcia Ramirez categorically rejected charges made by U.S. press that drug trafficking is being protected by high-level Mexican officials and said that the Mexican Government is developing a vigorous campaign against this type of crime as well as all other types. He said that Mexican-U.S. relations are and continue to be excellent, and that their understanding will continue to be honorable and mutually respectful because that is the way friends understand each other. He said that drug trafficking is not a local crime but one that is international.

Gracia Ramirez added that the matter of increasing units for Mexico's anti-drug campaign had not been concretely carried out, and that this was a matter for further study. During discussions on the situation, we asked ourselves if there were enough units and if they were efficient enough to conduct carry out their work. On this matter, he recalled that the Mexican Government had announced several weeks ago the acquisition of additional helicopters to its police fleet.

Garcia Ramirez said he believed his meeting with Meese had been useful, positive, and in depth during a frank, honorable, direct and at all times cordial discussion.

VOTER REGISTRATION TO CONTINUE UNTIL 30 APRIL

FL220220 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1850 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Secretary of Government Manuel Bartlett Diaz has asked the political parties that will take part in the coming July elections to show greater responsibility in guaranteeing the purity of the electoral process. Bartlett, who is also the president of the Federal Electoral Commission, made this request when the commission approved the registration requests of the candidates for governor from nine political parties. Eight parties registered 300 candidates; that is, they registered candidates for all the electoral districts. Only the opposition Mexican Workers Party did not cover all the electoral districts, registering only 290 candidates.

During the meeting of the Federal Electoral Commission, the national director of voter registration, Jose Newman Valenzuela, reported that 34,013,051 voters had registered as of 15 March 1985, and issued a reminder that the last day for registration is 30 April. He said that within 48 days, the lists of voters will be made available to the political parties, adding that work would continue to correct the lists.

During the same meeting, a coalition of the opposition Unified Socialist Party of Mexico and the opposition Revolutionary Workers Party in the eighth district of Puebla, central Mexico, was approved.

BELIZEESQUIVEL ANNOUNCES NEW TAXES IN BUDGET SPEECH

FL231636 Bridgetown CANA in English 2307 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, March 22, CANA -- Belize Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel today announced three million dollars (one Belize dollar: 49 cents U.S.) in new taxation in a 213 million dollar budget presented to parliament.

In his first budget speech since assuming office three months ago, Esquivel raised stamp duties on imports from eight to 10 percent, increased hotel room tax, aircraft landing fees by 30 per cent, and airport departure tax, which went up to 10 dollars from eight. Debate on the proposals will start next Friday.

Esquivel said the economy was in bad shape which he blamed on the non-productive policies of the former Price administration. Major expenditure will go to education, the repayment of debts, government administration, and national security.

Esquivel said the continued decline in the world market price for sugar, the country's main export, also hampered economic recovery. Sugar production fell by nine percent in 1984 from 114,300 tons to 101,500 tons. Earnings from the industry declined by 3.3 million dollars to 65.1 million dollars.

The prime minister said his administration planned to tighten up on spending by parastatal boards, including the port authority. The government also intends to pursue a strong policy of collecting tax arrears. Esquivel said some seven million dollars in income tax is outstanding.

COSTA RICAMONGE SAYS 'NO POSSIBILITY' OF MEETING ORTEGA

PA222004 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1838 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] San Jose, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Luis Alberto Monge, president of the Republic, today confirmed that he will not meet with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. According to the head of state, a report recently issued in Mexico on the possibility of such a meeting is "not true."

Monge insisted that "there is no possibility that such a meeting will take place."

When consulted about this, Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez concurred that "a meeting between the two heads of state does not seem feasible."

These statements come in the wake of a diplomatic note sent by Sandinist Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco charging that the Costa Rican Government is protecting mercenaries serving the CIA and Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

Monge described such charges against his administration as false and said that he will again refute them. However, he acknowledged that "in some countries, only the Nicaraguan version is published, while Costa Rican clarifications are not."

According to Gutierrez, issues such as the protests, Nicaraguan attacks on Costa Rica, as well as other topics, could be submitted to discussion to the mixed commission within the framework of the Contadora Group. "However, the Foreign Ministry has not taken any initiatives to that end."

MONGE COMMENTS ON NICARAGUAN BORDER SITUATION

PA221449 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Costa Rica hopes that someday conditions will be appropriate to establish a cooperative environment with Nicaragua. This was said by Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge who added: Unfortunately, our border relations with Nicaragua are not good.

[Begin recording] We have had a long history of difficulties along the northern area. Not only today, but during the 40 years of Somozism, Costa Rica has faced many problems. Unfortunately, the difficulties have not ceased with the new regime. A peaceful country like ours strongly desires that someday conditions will be appropriate to establish an environment of cooperation and joint actions for the good of the towns that border Nicaragua. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA

Border Group May Meet

PA221823 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] San Jose -- Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said today that meetings of a Costa Rica-Nicaragua mixed border commission could resume soon.

The official said he discussed that subject with his Nicaraguan counterpart Miguel D'Escoto, and added that the conditions for a resumption of the meetings are now present. However, Gutierrez did not comment on the possibility of a meeting between President Monge and his Nicaraguan colleague, Daniel Ortega Saavedra. There has been speculation on such a meeting during the past few days.

The Costa Rican foreign minister's statement was interpreted as an indication that relations between the two countries have normalized following a crisis triggered by an incident involving a deserter from the Nicaraguan military service that lasted several months.

As for the canceled [Contadora] meeting, Foreign Minister Gutierrez said that Costa Rica will now take part in upcoming meetings because it believes that the conflict with Nicaragua, which led to its withdrawal from the talks, has been resolved.

The Costa Rican diplomat said his colleague D'Escoto told him that Nicaragua might consider amendments to the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation, a document proposed by the Contadora Group. Its use as the basis for a regional agreement is under study by the Central American foreign ministers.

Says Problems Continue

PA221825 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Costa Rican-Nicaraguan relations, which reached their most critical point as a result of the problem with asylum seeker Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, have not improved much.

Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said that although relations are not as cool as in the past, they are still somewhat distant because the protests and counterprotests continue. Problems such as attacks on our territory, the entry of members of the Sandinist Army, and the lack of replies to several protest notes over violations of our territory remain unresolved.

Although conditions exist for a meeting of the Mixed Border Commission for Prevention and Verification, created within the Contadora Group to find a solution to the problems between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, no efforts in this regard have been made. The problems between the two countries remain to a great extent unsolved, and there has been no initiative by either of the two countries to hold a meeting to resolve the differences. Official sources said there is no proposal for such a meeting, much less for a meeting between President Luis Alberto Monge and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

SECURITY COUNCIL TO DECIDE URBINA LARA CASE

PA221632 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Once the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department completes its study of two letters written by Nicaraguan youth Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, the Security Council will decide whether he will be granted or refused territorial asylum. Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said that, although in his letters Urbina Lara retracts somewhat his remarks to a Colombian radio station about joining the armed struggle with Eden Pastora's groups, the case must be studied.

Gutierrez also said that Urbina Lara must fulfill some requirements in order for a file to be opened on his request for asylum.

Asked if the Security Council decision on Urbina Lara's request for asylum would be binding, he said yes. Although the president and the foreign minister have the responsibility in granting or denying asylum, Gutierrez said that President Monge has agreed that the Security Council should make the decision. Foreign Minister Gutierrez said that in accordance with the procedures that must be fulfilled, the Urbina Lara case should be decided in about 1 month.

GOVERNMENT TO STUDY NICARAGUA REFUGEE PROBLEM

PA221557 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] In its next meeting, the Security Council will analyze the increase in the number of refugees who enter the country from Nicaragua because it has become a serious problem. In the past few hours, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of refugees arriving in our territory from various locations in Nicaragua. The country's resources are limited and a solution must be found to the problem in coordination with international organizations. As a result of this, the situation is being discussed with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR.

Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has said that the problem with the Nicaraguan refugees is not a legal one because the international conventions are clear on this. He said that Costa Rica has promised Nicaragua that it will not grant asylum to those who are fleeing from the obligatory military service. However, it will not close its borders to the refugees (?with the exception of those) fleeing from the military service. The basic problem deals with the number of refugees who are entering the country [words indistinct].

NICARAGUAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL REDUCTION HAILED

PA212317 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Mar 85 p 11

[By Mario Artavia Jimenez]

[Text] On 31 March the country will be free of a group of individuals who have not allowed us to live in peace in the past few years. I am speaking of the Nicaraguan Embassy officials who must leave the country on that date at the Foreign Ministry's "kind" invitation.

At last, we Costa Ricans will be able to breathe freely for a while with the disappearance of a danger that was becoming increasingly visible due to the disproportionate number of officials maintained by that country at their Costa Rican embassy. The problems in the past few months, among which we will never be able to forget the violation of the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua, the invasions of national territory, and the offensive language used by Nicaraguan leaders in addressing their Costa Rican colleagues, have deeply penetrated the feelings of a people who love peace and desire to continue living in peace.

Undoubtedly, decreasing the number of officials at the Nicaraguan Embassy is a relief. It is well known to everyone how the Soviet Union uses its embassies to carry out terrible espionage activities throughout the world. Details of these activities have been publicized and have resulted in expulsion of many of their officials from nations on all continents. Why then would you not expect the Nicaraguans to be good students in this field?

Recently, the newspaper LA PRENSA LIBRE published a report on espionage and the Nicaraguan Embassy that caused great alarm. It was just another warning of what was already demonstrated through actions.

Why then were there so many people at the embassy in a small country? This question does not have an answer, unless the explanation is that all of these individuals have "special" missions in our country.

Meanwhile, Costa Rica has very few people at its embassy in Managua, so few that recently confusion was created when the few, who could be counted on the fingers of one hand, left the embassy to spend Christmans in Costa Rica.

There are so many incidents in which the Nicaraguan diplomats in Costa Rica have been mentioned. Let us recall the case of Hector Frances, a man who was never found; let us recall the explosion at the Honduran Airlines, kidnappings, and other details. It is not that the Sandinist diplomats were directly accused of perpetrating these actions, but their names were mentioned and because there are so many of them the suspicions were strong.

Thirty-nine will leave and 10 will remain. This figure continues to be large in comparison to the number of Costa Ricans in Managua, but at least it is more reasonable, and will allow us to breathe easier, and, moreover, sleep calmly without thinking that there are figures lurking about in the darkness of night with evil intentions.

NATIONALS BEING TRAINED IN CUBA, NICARAGUA

PA211855 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Mar 85 p 6

[Text] Spokesmen for intelligence services have revealed that approximately 100 Costa Ricans are receiving leftists Marxist-Leninist training in Nicaragua and Cuba.

Regarding this, national authorities said they are fully capable of repelling any kind of destabilization actions coming from groups trained in communist countries.

When asked about the organization of a movement to destabilize Costa Rica, Public Security Minister Benjamin Piza Carranza said: "We have always heard of the possibility that there are groups harboring such a line of operation, but we are trying to control them. We will do everything possible to neutralize them. We know of groups that have been trained in other countries. They are extreme leftist groups that follow the Marxist-Leninist line. We do not know how many have received such training, but we do know that they have been trained in Nicaragua and Cuba. They follow that kind of ideology and this could pose a problem for Costa Rica."

However, spokesmen for the Intelligence and Security Directorate (DIS) said that the police are fully capable of controlling subversive groups trying to destabilize the Costa Rican democratic system.

NICARAGUAN CONTRAS REPORTEDLY COMMIT ROBBERIES

PA220214 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica -- ANN -- The police authorities have disclosed that groups of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, apparently without the knowledge of their superiors, are perpetrating a wave of robberies in wealthy homes in San Jose. This was reported by Minor Calvo, director of the Judicial Investigation Organization [OIJ], when presenting details on two robberies that were committed by armed groups in the past few days. According to the police report, this week three Nicaraguans broke into the home of the Montero family located in the western section of the city and took valuables worth 500,000 colones, approximately \$10,000. The robbers threatened the lady of the house and her son with a machine gun, tied them up, and took the valuables. They escaped in a vehicle that was not identified.

A similar robbery was carried out last week by four Nicaraguans defectors from the ranks of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, one of the groups that the U.S. Government finances in an attempt to overthrow the Nicaraguan Sandinist government. At that time, the criminals entered the home of the Macana family and took jewelry valued at 200,000 colones, \$4,000. One of the robbers was later arrested by the police and confessed to being a member of the counterrevolutionary group. The activities of the members and defectors of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution were directed at the country's northern areas, bordering Nicaragua, where, according to area residents, the murders, assaults, and other violent actions have kept the area in a real state of terror. However, the fact that these actions are being carried out in the capital city poses a new problem for the local authorities, who already face an increase in common crimes in their main cities.

According to estimates made by the police and immigration authorities, at least 3,000 ARDE men have deserted since early this year because of the conflicts within the organization and the strong military defeats inflicted by the Sandinist People's Army on the banks of the San Juan River. According to reports most of the 3,000 deserters have remained together in bands that commit crimes to survive. In some cases, they have established large businesses such as cattle smuggling.

The OIJ reported that they are carrying out investigations to ascertain if the robberies committed in the capital city are being done by a band operating on its own, or whether it is a large organization linked to the counterrevolution groups.

U.S. TRAINS POLICE IN COUNTERTERRORIST TECHNIQUES

PA222315 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 18 Mar 85 p 4 A

[Text] The Costa Rican Government is preparing to establish a specialized police force capable of neutralizing future insurgent outbreaks, a very reliable source from the Public Security Ministry stated on the condition that his identity not be revealed.

With this objective in mind, he added, 45 Civil Police officers are receiving counter-insurgency training at the Regional Military Training and Security Center (CREM) located in El Silin de Puerto Castilla, Honduras.

They are being trained by "elite" officers of the U.S. Armed Forces and are expected to return by August at the latest. As soon as they return, the ministry plans to develop a training program with approximately 400 Civil Police officers in order to form what in security terms is described as a counterinsurgency "special battalion."

The weapons this force will require are to be provided within a short term by the United States, our source added, stressing that one of the zones where training is scheduled to take place in Costa Rica is General Anastasio Somoza's old farm in Murcielago, Guanacaste.

According to the official, the idea of developing this plan gained strength after reports from the Honduran Army were received stating that Honduran guerrillas captured months earlier in the Olancho region, on the border with Nicaragua, said that they were trained in Cuba with at least 50 Costa Ricans.

It is believed that another 100 Costa Ricans have gone through this guerrilla training phase on the Caribbean island. Based upon this information, ministry officials have described the creation of the new command as "urgent."

With the establishment of this new force, there will be two antiterrorist forces in the country. The first was the so-called Special Intervention Unit (UEI), an antiterrorist force specialized in countering clashes during urban incidents. This force, whose ability to act, according to persons who have been present during their training, is "impressive," works under the utmost secrecy, to the point where not even the total number of its members is known. For its specialized training the UEI has been advised by U.S., Israeli, and FRG antiterrorism experts, among others.

Regarding the new command to be created, our source said that its mission would mostly involve controlling insurgent outbreaks in rural areas or neutralizing actions such as those that took place on 14 February by alleged leftists who stole 5.5 million colones from the bank in Filadelfia, Guanacaste, without any problem.

"It is not possible to continue with the empiricism and the inefficiency we have had thus far in response to incidents such as these that affect peace and threaten the country's institutionality," our source said. He added that it is expected that before year's end the group will be properly established, and will also support other local police forces in order to maintain order during the process that will culminate with the general elections in February 1986.

TWO NEW PARTIES SUBMIT REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS

PA211947 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] The civil registry has received the necessary documents for registering two new political parties, one of them national and the other provincial. Rafael Villegas, civil registry director, yesterday received the documents for the registration of the new parties, namely, the Alajuela Solidarity Party and the Costa Rican People's Party. Dr Oscar Valverde Rodriguez is the first party's executive committee chairman. The party plans to be registered as a provincial party in Alajuela. The second party was presented by Manuel Mora, chairman of the executive committee, and it is a national party. The two sets of documents will be considered by government officials, who will determine whether they meet the legal requirements and if the registration procedure is in accordance with the electoral code regulations.

EL SALVADORRETIRED GENERAL ASSASSINATED IN COLONIA SACAMIL

PA232139 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 2051 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] A few moments ago we received a call that retired General Jose Alberto Medrano has been assassinated in Colonia Sacamil. According to statements by witnesses in a parking lot near the southern part of the Metropolitan School for the Section 50 buildings, three persons, including a woman dressed in red, intercepted the polarized-windowed station wagon carrying General Medrano, 63.

Witnesses report that the three persons who intercepted Medrano had the young servant girl accompanying him leave the car before opening fire on the general, who was killed instantly. He was left sprawled on the car seat leaning to his right side, still at the wheel. The assassination took place before 1400, local time.

One of General Medrano's relatives said that the general had offered to do a favor for his sister, which is why he was in Colonia Sacamil with one of his servants. The sister's name was not revealed.

General Medrano founded the Nationalist Democratic Organization, ORDEN, and was director of the National Guard at one time. He also founded the Democratic United Front, FUDI. The Popular Orientation Party, POP, was the last political organization he founded in El Salvador.

TENORIO ON SOUTH AMERICAN TOUR, CONTADORA DOCUMENT

PA212241 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Report by Maria Teresa Fajardo]

[Text] Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Tenorio held a press conference today at Hotel Presidente in El Salvador during which he referred to the results of his official visit to five South American countries and described it as successful. He said that in Brazil, Ecuador, Uruguay, Argentina, and Peru, support and recognition were obtained for the work carried out by the government. Foreign Minister Tenorio confirmed that 23 international observers will watch the development of the next elections. He said:

[Begin recording] As of this moment, 23 countries have confirmed that their governments will be represented. There will also be nongovernmental personalities from Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Spain, the FRG, Venezuela, Peru, Honduras, Colombia, France, Panama, Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay, Denmark, Bolivia, Norway, Portugal, Australia, and New Zealand, among others. In addition, we have invited members of various Latin American labor organizations. Above all, besides inviting them we have informed them that they will be free to travel throughout the country and not only watch developments in our capital and the more developed urban centers, but in the small towns and even in the areas where some contend there will be no elections but where there will indeed be elections. [end recording]

Regarding the causes that led Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador to submit observations to the Contadora Document, Tenorio said:

[Begin recording] The largest difficulties that gave rise to the observations are the following: Nicaragua said that it would accept the version of the document delivered on 7 September 1984. The document contains three major sections on eminently political aspects, the aim of which is to achieve democratization in the countries in the area; but with which, in my opinion, and I believe the opinion of any impartial observer, Nicaragua has not complied. It covers economic and social aspects because there is an obvious stagnation in the CACM and the integration process, as well as an economic crisis in the Central American countries, which is reflected by a drop in their gross national products and deficits, which have grown in the five countries. There is a fiscal deficit, a deficit in the balance of payments, and a trade deficit in the five countries as well as an obvious deterioration in their inhabitants' standard of living.

A second chapter in the document deals with economic and social aspects. In the social area, there are the problems of the displaced persons and the refugees, which must be solved. The document mentions these problems and establishes mechanisms to ease the situation.

The third aspect, which is undoubtedly the most contentious one, concerns security in the Central American area. [end recording]

D'AUBUISSON DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN ROMERO DEATH

PA231652 Paris AFP in Spanish 1559 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Mar (AFP) -- Salvadoran rightist leader Roberto D'Aubuisson today rejected Colonel Roberto Santivanez' statements earlier this week in Washington, implicating him in the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

According to Santivanez, a former Salvadoran intelligence official following D'Aubuisson's orders, Ricardo Lau, a former Somozist colonel, shot Msgr Romero on 24 March 1980 and received \$120,000 as payment.

"Now they have a new version of the archbishop's death, which implicates the Nicaraguan contras," D'Aubuisson commented, describing Santibanez as "a man in the pay of the U.S. Democrats." "I had not heard this version," he added, "but it evidently seeks two purposes: to prepare the terrain so both the U.S. Congress and Senate will reject new aid for the Nicaraguan contras and to damage me as a political leader in El Salvador when we are at the threshold of an election for deputies and mayors."

The Salvadoran defense minister and deputy minister, who have been cited as organizers of the death squads, have not yet responded to these charges.

The fifth anniversary of Msgr Romero's death will be commemorated tomorrow, Sunday, with a number of events prepared by the popular organizations and the Catholic Church. In addition, the Central American University (UCA, Jesuit) last night accorded to Msgr Romero an honorary doctorate in theology posthumously.

ARMY DEPLOYS TROOPS TO GUARANTEE ELECTIONS

PA230417 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 22 Mar 85 pp 2, 60

[Text] To guarantee the elections that will be held on 31 March, the Army has deployed 10,000 soldiers to fight terrorists in various areas of the country. According to military sources, confrontations increased yesterday in Chalatenango, near the border with Honduras, and in towns in Morazan and Usulután Departments.

The terrorists are trying to stop traffic on the roads, especially in the eastern areas, to prevent the people from reaching voting centers and casting their votes on Palm Sunday. It was learned that the Armed Forces have thwarted the plans of the subversives by carrying out the "Freedom Plan" in six of the country's departments. In the past 24 hours the Army has reported the deaths of 15 terrorists and 4 soldiers.

Near La Palma, Chalatenango Department, Army troops were attacked by surprise when they were crossing the area known as El Barrancon. Three civilians traveling in a bus were wounded when the bus was caught in the cross fire. The Army began the antiguerrilla operation 2 weeks ago and has intensified its actions in the past few days in several areas including Guazapa Hill.

GUERRILLAS DESTROY CALIFORNIA MAYOR'S OFFICE

PA230254 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1530 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Report by Carlos Rivera]

[Text] The authorities today reported that FMLN rebels last night destroyed the mayor's office in California, Usulután Department, approximately 111 km east of San Salvador. A military source said that about 100 rebels entered this village of about 2,800 residents and completely destroyed the mayor's office. The source added that California does not have a military garrison and that no serious incidents had been reported. For the past few months, the rebels have been carrying out an undeclared war on mayors' offices in several municipalities as a way of expressing their feelings against the 31 March elections. To date, the rebels have destroyed 10 mayors' offices throughout the country. This practice has been criticized by the members of the Central Electoral Council and by the Catholic Church who have said that this does not contribute to conserving the cultural heritage and will not stop the municipal and mayoral elections scheduled for 31 March.

FINANCE MINISTER ON FOREIGN LOANS, PUBLIC DEBT

PA221434 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpts] A \$20-million loan agreement was signed with Aid for International Development [AID] today at the office of the finance minister. U.S. Ambassador Alberto Martinez Piedra represented the U.S. Government.

He said that another loan agreement for an additional \$10 million will be signed tomorrow for a total of \$30 million.

Finance Minister Leonardo Figueroa Villate said:

[Begin recording] [Figueroa] First of all, I am leaving tomorrow for Washington to sign the loan agreement with the World Bank for \$44.6 million, which will be used to continue the work in Chixoy. I will then go to Vienna to participate in the meeting of IDB governors. There I will sign two more loan agreements and the securities or certificates through which Guatemala will participate in the Industrial and Financial Corporation of Central America.

[Reporter] What is the amount of the two loans and with whom will you sign them?

[Figueroa] This is pending discussion with German bankers and IDB officials. I cannot give you a precise figure at this moment.

[Reporter] What is the purpose of these loans?

[Figueroa] More than anything, to solve the problems at Chixoy. [end recording]

Figueroa Villate added that Guatemala has already signed for several financial assistance loans and other loans are pending formalization.

[Begin recording -- broadcast in progress] [Figueroa] ...Loan agreements, and all loan agreements I have signed as finance minister are long-term agreements. And since you are asking about the loan agreements, I think it would be best to talk about the loan agreements that have been signed recently and those that may be signed in the future.

(?About) the ones signed recently, we signed a loan agreement with the Italian Government in the amount of \$18 million, which will serve to pay part of the debt [words indistinct] enterprise.

There is also another loan for \$44.6 million which I am going to sign with the World Bank. And talking about (?other loans), there is one, that will probably be signed with the IDB within 60 days, for industrial reactivation in the amount of \$60 million. This loan will be signed by the Bank of Guatemala as the institution responsible for it and by the Finance Ministry.

We also expect to sign a loan agreement for agricultural reactivation, amounting to between \$80 million and \$100 million, which will be used to pay for agricultural materials, fertilizer, pesticides, marketing services, cultivation work, [words indistinct]. In other words, we are using a new approach in this case. These are the loans to be signed with IDB in the future. [end recording]

The finance minister reported that Guatemala's public debt totals \$2.7 billion.

[Begin recording] [Figueroa] Guatemala's public debt, including the one (?to) the private sector, totals about \$2.7 billion, that is to say, [words indistinct] short term, including \$565 million of the private sector (?against) the Bank of Guatemala, which owes \$1.135 billion as of this date. Most of it, that is, by far the largest portion of this debt, was incurred as a short-term debt, that is, [word indistinct] term.

That is why the Bank of Guatemala has to amortize and service this debt over a period that is too short -- between 3-5 years. For this reason, the amortization represents 35 percent of our total exports.

[Reporter] What is the government going to do to pay to cover this debt, which is so exaggerated?

[Figueroa] Look, the government has established mechanisms. Negotiations are currently under way on an individual basis, that is, with each financial institution, and efforts are being made to refinance it. [end recording]

FRG DEPUTIES MEET ANDRADE, DELIVER PROTEST

PA220306 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Two Social Democratic deputies from the FRG met this afternoon with Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran at the National Palace. Reportedly, the deputies gave Andrade a document supposedly signed by 125 German lawmakers to protest to the Guatemalan Government over alleged human rights violations.

It was announced that the deputies represent the states of Hamburg and Bremen at the German Parliament. Both declined to make statements to the press regarding their meeting with Andrade, but said they would do so during a press conference on Saturday.

The lawmakers tried to meet yesterday with Head of State Oscar Mejia Victores and Roberto Lobos Zamora, deputy head of state, but the scheduled audiences never took place.

Army spokesman Hector Rosales Salaverria said this morning that the audiences were canceled because the Guatemalan officials had other engagements at the same time. Rosales ruled out any ill will on the part of the officials toward the visitors.

Attend Missing Persons Rally

PA240441 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Despite threats against the Mutual Support Group [GAM], the relatives of missing persons staged another demonstration this afternoon in front of the attorney general's offices. The protest was held to demand a tripartite committee to submit a full report of the status of investigations on the disappearance of over 200 persons.

Two members of the FRG Bundestag, Ernst Waltemathe, and Freimut Duve, participated in this afternoon's rally, and read a letter addressed to GAM, signed among others, by the president of the Social Democratic Bundestag bloc, Hans-Jochen Vogel; Willy Brandt, president of the German Social Democratic Party and of the Socialist International; and two FRG congress vice presidents.

Freimut Duve, one of the FRG Bundestag members visiting our country, told reporters today that GAM is much more important than the National Constituent Assembly. Duve, who read a letter of support and solidarity to the relatives of the missing persons, said that to have credibility in the democratization process, the government must use its resources to find the missing persons. It is the only way to believe in the process, Duve pointed out. He indicated that there have been too many deaths and kidnappings in Guatemala already.

The German Bundestag member noted that during his visit to Guatemala, there have been many deaths and kidnappings. I will not make comparisons with past years, he added, but the fact is that this type of action continues in this country.

Duve finally said that in Guatemala there are many politicians who are demanding democracy, understanding from the international community, and credits to solve the economic crisis. However, the only way to achieve a democracy is by paying attention to the people's demands, particularly, the demands of GAM Group.

HONDURAS

FORMER FDN OFFICIAL REFUSED PERMISSION TO LEAVE

PA230114 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Mar 85 p 10

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- Honduran authorities have refused to grant a former Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, commander permission to leave the country. He had sought asylum in the Mexican Embassy. The refusal came because the Honduran Government suspects that he committed crimes in the country, government sources reported yesterday.

Jorge Efraim Martinez Mondragon, former leader of the FDN's "Jose Dolores Estrada" Regional Command, sought asylum at the Mexican Embassy in Tegucigalpa on Tuesday along with nine other people.

Accepting the amnesty offered by Managua, the nine companions of the former anti-Sandinist leader, known as Moises Corrales Martinez, returned to Managua on Monday. After the Honduran Government granted permission, the nine boarded a commercial flight for Nicaragua. They are: Norma Corrales, 26, Martinez Mondragon's wife; his cousin Adalberto Marcial Espinosa; former FDN soldier Jose Orlando Torres Castillo, 21; Samuel Leonidas Blanco Catillo; Mario Jose Mondragon Castro; Margarita Corrales; Mario Jose Mondragon Castro, Jr; Liduvina Corrales Mondragon; Alondra Damaris; and Maria Rebeca Corrales Mondragon.

A government source reported yesterday that Commander Moises is still under diplomatic protection at the Mexican Embassy following the Honduran authorities' refusal to grant him permission to leave the country. The source added that the anti-Sandinist defector "is suspected of crimes still under investigation." A diplomatic source indicated that Martinez Mondragon was reportedly part of paramilitary groups that committed outrages against human rights in Honduras. As a result of these outrages, more than 100 people have been reported missing.

According to a report on human rights violations by high-ranking members of the Army headed by General Walter Lopez Reyes, "there is suspicion that some of the persons reported as missing were victims of armed paramilitary groups, either leftist or rightist, and composed of persons who are not Honduran citizens, and who have been operating clandestinely."

The Honduran Armed Forces has announced a new report -- its 90-day deadline ends next week -- on those reported missing as a result of the reform movement within the Army, which overthrew Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez, the United States' best friend in Central America.

The movement supports the revision of treaties signed by Honduras and the United States in 1954, a process that is still not complete. According to the spokesman, the FDN only has an information office in Tegucigalpa. In addition, he denied that they have been using Honduran territory for their actions against Nicaragua.

EL NUEVO DIARIO, Nicaragua's official newspaper, has reported that Martinez Mondragon belonged to the Special Basic Training School, EEBI, in 1979, when the Somoza dictatorship was overthrown. He arrived in Honduras in 1981 and was one of the founders of the FDN. Later he acted as chief of the Cinco Pinos Command of the "Jose Dolores Estrada" Regional Command.

'UNIVERSAL TREK-85' JOINT MANEUVER BEGINS IN APRIL

PA221524 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Mar 85 p 2

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Public Relations Office in Tegucigalpa on 20 March]

[Text] In continuing joint U.S.-Honduran military maneuvers, the Honduran and U.S. Armed Forces will conduct another joint maneuver on the coasts of northern Honduras in late April. The exercise, "Universal Trek-85," will include an amphibious landing and an air attack. The details of this maneuver are currently being coordinated and will be disclosed at a later date. Units of the Honduran Army, Air Force, and Navy will participate in the exercise.

PAZ BARNICA CRITICIZES SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR

PA241533 Paris AFP in Spanish 2157 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Mar (AFP) -- Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica today accused Salvadoran Ambassador to Honduras Ernesto Arrieta of "provoking confrontations" and urged him to clarify statements on the border problem between the two countries.

Arrieta recently said that his country will never give up its sovereignty in the negotiations to delimit the border with Honduras and added that "if this bothers the Hondurans, they can get as angry as they want, but they should understand El Salvador's situation."

Paz Barnica said that Arrieta's statements "have hurt the Honduran people's feelings" and "do not lead to the understanding and good faith that should exist between two countries trying to resolve a border problem." The border delimitation is one of the points in the peace treaty that was signed in October 1980 in Lima and that established a 5-year period to reach an agreement in this regard through direct dialogue.

The treaty establishes that if no agreement is reached within that period, the two countries must go to the International Court of Justice.

The Honduran foreign secretary commented that a diplomat has the obligation to promote understanding and closer ties. He criticized Arrieta's attitude, indicating that it could lead to confrontation. Arrieta stated that El Salvador will not make concessions during the border negotiations or cede its territory and that he hoped that the Honduran Government "will understand this position."

"Honduras does not want to receive a gift of Salvadoran territory. Instead, it wants to defend its rights, legally and internationally," Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica replied today.

In September, Honduras suspended the training of Salvadoran soldiers in the Regional Military Training Center (CREM) as a way to exert pressure to obtain an acceleration of the border negotiations with El Salvador.

SUAZO DENIES ORDERING LEGISLATURE'S REORGANIZATION

PA221813 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Statement issued by the Honduran Presidency Secretariat's Press and Information Office in Tegucigalpa on 21 March]

[Text] In view of the false statements made by a journalist who, as a reporter of a radio station at the congressional sessions, said that President Roberto Suazo Cordova had issued instructions to reorganize the leadership of the legislative branch, this Press Information Office of the Presidency Secretariat wishes to explain to the Honduran people, the diplomatic corps, and the international public that these statements are baseless and speculative due to the lack of professional seriousness on the part of the journalist or are the result of false information supplied by vested persons or groups.

This Press and Information Office categorically denies these reports which attempt to involve the president in affairs that are the concern of another branch of the government.

In addition, considering a suggestion made by Osvaldo Ramos Soto, rector of the Honduran National Autonomous University, who recommended that the conflict between the judicial and legislative branches be solved through the good offices of the president in his position as top leader of the Liberal Party and as coordinator of that party's largest faction, this office hereby wishes to report that before the situation reached this extreme crisis, the president telephoned attorneys Efraim Bu Giron and Carlos Manuel Arita, presidents of the legislative and judicial branches, respectively. The president tried to seek points of agreement and avoid a personal confrontation, which had shown some early signs. The president invited them to attend a meeting at his office or home. Arita agreed but Bu Giron refused immediately noting that it was the Supreme Court justice who should come to see him at his congressional office. Several persons witnessed that the invitation was made with conciliatory intentions. These witnesses were visiting the president's home at the time.

Consequently, let it be perfectly clear that the president tried, from the very beginning, to achieve harmony between the presidents of the legislative and judicial branches.

NICARAGUA

DANIEL ORTEGA RETURNS FROM SOVIET UNION, BRAZIL

Trip Evaluated

PA231356 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] President Ortega, commander of the revolution, who will return to the country today from his visit to the Soviet Union and Brazil, has once again reiterated his responsibilities, as a head of state, to find a peaceful solution to the problems of Central America.

After expressing his condolences over the death of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko in Moscow, Commander Ortega went to Brazil to attend the presidential inauguration of Tancredo Neves. There he asserted that the revolutionary government wants peace in the Central American region.

He had intense meetings with Latin American heads of state, and political leaders of various parties in a search for negotiated solutions. This fact made evident to the world that Nicaragua is making continuous efforts to promote the work of the Contadora Group and achieve this group's objectives.

The heads of state and leaders who attended the presidential inauguration in Brazil acknowledged the important effort that the Nicaraguan Government is making to hold negotiations with the U.S. Government, which is the main supplier of the counter-revolutionary groups that are murdering our working people.

Nicaragua's proposals to withdraw 100 Cuban military advisers and reduce the number of arms in the region are elements that the political leaders of the world consider in establishing the responsibilities that each government has for finding peace.

Nicaragua has made great efforts and will continue them because the health, housing, creative work, and education of a people who broke the chains of shame and enslavement on 19 July 1979 are involved.

President Ortega's tour to Brazil must be seen in the framework of responsible efforts aimed at sparing the Central American people from the disastrous threat that the U.S. Administration poses to the Nicaraguan people. We want peace and we are prepared to defend it by following the unforgettable examples of Sandino, Benjamin Zeledon, Carlos Fonseca, and the thousands of heroes and martyrs who have struggled for a free fatherland.

Holds Press Conference

PA231630 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Press conference held by President Daniel Ortega at Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua upon his return from official visits to the USSR and Brazil -- live; questioners not identified]

[Text] [Ortega] We are returning from a somewhat intense and extensive tour since, as is well-known, we were in Moscow for the funeral of Soviet Chairman Konstantin Chernenko and then we went to Brazil for the inauguration of Tancredo Neves. We can state that after our participation in the funeral of Chairman Chernenko -- which we attended because of the moral (?solidarity) and support, cooperation, and links that Secretary Chernenko had with Nicaragua -- we also had the opportunity to meet with new Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev. The friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Nicaragua were once again ratified there. Support for the Contadora peace efforts and the rejection of the policy of aggression against Nicaragua also remained clear.

The day we arrived in Brazil it was announced that President Tancredo Neves had been hospitalized. This naturally worried the Brazilian people and the international delegations that were participating in such an important event for Latin America as this democratic advance in Brazil. The following day we participated in the ceremonies in which Vice President Sarney temporarily took office. We then held a number of meetings and then traveled to Rio de Janeiro at the invitation of Governor Leonel Brizola and then to Sao Paulo at the invitation of Governor Franco Montoro. Throughout our stay in Brazil, we were interested in President Tancredo Neves' health and when we left at dawn, President Neves' health was better and a definite recovery was being predicted.

Regarding our visit to Brazil, we can state that we found great solidarity with the Nicaraguan people on the part of the Brazilian Congress, representatives, and people. We found a desire to support Nicaragua in the struggle for peace and to provide cooperation in the trade, economic, technical, and other fields. We held many meetings with various Brazilian sectors, with Brazilian businessmen, workers, church representatives, students, women, professionals, political forces, intellectuals, artists, and so forth. I could say that every sector in Brazil agreed with the Nicaraguan people in their struggle for the defense of the revolution and their efforts to achieve peace in Central America.

[Question] Regarding your visits to the Soviet Union and Brazil, did you achieve concrete agreements for economic aid or some kind of specific economic cooperation exchange or did you just agree to conclude such agreements in the future?

[Ortega] Regarding Brazil, since 1979 we have been developing a cooperation that to date has signified a line of credit for up to \$54 million for Nicaragua. There has already been some technical support with development programs. We now have the opportunity to deepen and expand these lines of cooperation. We are sure that this cooperation will be expanded and deepened. There is a desire to do this. Of course, due to the illness of President Tancredo Neves, the central government felt it was not advisable to discuss these topics in depth at that time. We are planning to send a delegation to Brazil soon to discuss very specific aspects of cooperation. During our visits to Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, the governors were willing to discuss lines of cooperation between those states, and Nicaragua. Those states have great economic potential. This is especially true of Sao Paulo, which has a great developed industry and there are great possibilities of support for Nicaragua.

Among other things, we discussed cooperation in oil exploration and the use of alcohol as an energy alternative for fuel. Nicaraguan technicians have already been in Sao Paulo, specifically working on a [word indistinct] project whose plans are ready. The only thing needed is financing and Brazil will (?probably) participate in this. There is also willingness to provide cooperation in the agricultural and livestock fields, in which the Brazilians have experience. They are also willing to provide technical support in all these fields.

We have developed our relations with the Soviet Union in various areas. On this occasion I wanted, first of all, to express our condolences over the death of Chairman Chernenko. I also wanted to discuss several subjects connected with the peaceful efforts currently under way in Central America, such as the need to form a common front to prevent intervention into Nicaragua and keep the United States from insisting on a military solution, seeking instead a peaceful solution. The ties of commercial cooperation and trade that have gradually been established and developed with the Soviet Union were also ratified.

[Question] President Ortega, what progress was made in Brazil toward getting the U.S. leaders to assume their responsibility and resume the Manzanillo talks and toward their making constructive contributions to the Contadora negotiations?

[Ortega] There was a unanimous clamor in Brazil for continuing the dialogue that had somehow begun in Montevideo.

We say there was a common clamor because the Brazilian authorities and congressional representatives were not alone in this. The invited international delegations also favored this stand. This was demonstrated on inauguration day, when Vice President Sarney took office. We were greeting the participant foreign delegations and the Brazilian congressmen. When we greeted U.S. Vice President Bush, all those in Congress immediately began applauding. We told Vice President Bush then that they were applauding because all those in attendance -- not only the Brazilians, but Latin America and the entire world -- want peace in Central America. We also told him that it was the responsibility of Nicaragua and the United States to seek and find this peace. We made various efforts to establish contact with the U.S. delegation in Brazil and to hold a formal meeting, but this was not accepted by the United States, a fact that once again made evident the fact that the U.S. Government has no intention of holding a dialogue.

[Question] On a domestic subject, do you think that displacement of peasants from the conflictive zones will allow you to win the war that [words indistinct] the contras?

[Ortega] As we explained before leaving Nicaragua, this effort [words indistinct] the end of the coffee harvest, we discussed this subject a bit. This effort is essentially being made to save the peasants, so they will not be affected by the war. The peasants themselves have been leaving these areas and seeking the government's support because they are in the areas of clashes and are looking for a bit of security. So the program is aimed at finding job alternatives for them, at resettling all these peasants. Once these zones are rid of mercenary bands, the peasants would be allowed to return to their territories to continue working.

We want to add the following: When we visited Brazil, among the various meetings held, we also held talks with Ecuadorean President Febres Cordero. As is already known, a situation had been created in connection with an oil supply from Ecuador to Nicaragua, a triangulation [triangulacion] that was under way. It had been indicated that certain political aspects had prevented this supply. However, President Febres Cordero notified us that there is no such situation, that this was not due to any political situation, but to technical problems, and that Ecuador is willing to guarantee this type of triangulation shipment as soon as all the technical and commercial requirements for this type of operation are satisfied. We were glad to hear about this stand by Ecuador, which we might describe as very important, since Nicaragua needs that oil.

Speaking of oil, we know about the critical situation created in our country due to those supply problems, including the delay, or rather the nonarrival of the Ecuadorian oil. But it must be stressed that Mexico has continued responding in the emergency situations, at special moments. An oil shipment arrived recently from Mexico to save us from a truly critical situation. The Nicaraguan people should harbor no illusions that we have any extra fuel. On the contrary, we are obliged to further ration fuel due to the very difficult situation created by our need to guarantee the supply of oil and its derivatives.

ORTEGA UN MESSAGE REJECTS RACE DISCRIMINATION

PA230013 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] In President Daniel Ortega's message to the United Nations on the occasion of yesterday's celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Nicaraguan Government reiterates its solidarity with the peoples who struggle for elimination of racial discrimination.

Ortega's message, which was read by Nicaraguan UN Ambassador Javier Chamorro Mora, states that racial discrimination and its most hateful manifestation, apartheid, constitute a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and the principle of equality of peoples and individuals.

We also commit ourselves to the development and encouragement of respect for human rights and basic rights for all persons, without regard to race, sex, or religion, the Nicaraguan president stated. Nicaragua also pays special homage to the peoples of South Africa, Namibia, and Palestine who are struggling to fully exercise their rights, especially those of equality and nondiscrimination, in different regions of the world, the presidential message stated.

ORTEGA ARTICLE URGES END TO U.S. 'COVERT WAR'

PM221315 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 15 Mar 85 p 10

[Article by President Daniel Ortega: "Four Sandinist Reasons for Washington to Yield"]

[Text] President Ronald Reagan is asking the U.S. people and Congress to continue to finance the CIA's covert war against Nicaragua. He says that his aim is to achieve restructuring of our government. There are four reasons for the U.S. people to reject this proposal.

In the first place, the covert war is illegal. The International Court of Justice ordered the United States 10 May 1984 to cease its attack. It cited the UN and OAS principles which forbid the use of force against another nation's territorial integrity and political independence. The U.S. Administration paid no attention. The war cannot be justified as self-defense. The Reagan administration now admits that its aim is to overthrow our government; not, as Congress and the U.S. people were told, to halt an alleged flow of weapons to the Salvadoran rebels. Even when the White House maintained this theory, it never produced evidence that this flow of weapons existed, simply because it does not exist.

Why worry about international law? Because lack of respect for the law creates chaos. When a powerful nation repudiates international law -- and its most representative symbol, the International Court -- it threatens the legal order and establishes a dangerous precedent.

The second reason is that the covert war is immoral. This war is directed against Nicaraguan civilians, not against the military. The "contras" enter our territory from the bases established in Honduras and Costa Rica in order to murder, torture, and abduct men, women, and children.... Hundreds of civilians have perished, while the damage inflicted on our economy can be reckoned in hundreds of millions of dollars.

Freedom Fighters

Reagan calls these terrorists "freedom fighters." His administration attempts to cover up their atrocities and passes over them as "Sandinist propaganda." But the reports on the "contras'" atrocities published last week by U.S. human rights organizations reveal the truth to the U.S. people, who are financing these crimes....

It is immoral and contrary to U.S. values for the U.S. Administration to attempt to impose a new government in Nicaragua.

Our government was elected 4 November 1984 in the freest and fairest elections in Nicaragua's history. Over 1.1 million people (75.4 percent of the electorate voted, and seven political parties took part. The opposition parties received 33 percent of the votes and now hold 35 of the 96 seats in our Assembly...

The third reason why the Americans should reject the request for an increase in the funds to assist the Nicaraguan rebels is that the covert war is futile and unnecessary. During over 4 years of fighting, and despite the over \$100 million of U.S. aid, the "contras" have not succeeded in capturing or holding any Nicaraguan territory. There is only one explanation: They have no popular support. There is no reason for Washington to continue providing this aid. Nicaragua threatens none of its legitimate security interests in Central America. In the Contadora process and the Manzanillo (Mexico) talks, which began in June 1984 but were broken off in January, we have made it clear that we wish to accommodate U.S. concerns. We have repeated that we want no foreign military bases on our soil and that we would be prepared to reach agreement with our neighbors to establish a reasonable military balance in Central America and remove all foreign military advisers. We will never be an aggressor nation. Our weapons are defensive.

Covert War

One pretext for the covert war is the alleged need to force Nicaragua to sit down at the negotiating table. However, as a Democrat representative from Maryland has said, Nicaragua is already there. Nicaragua is wholly committed to achieving a political solution. For its part, Nicaragua accepted the September 1984 proposal of the Contadora countries -- Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela. The United States sabotaged the agreement by pressing its Central American allies to accept. [as published] The United States, not Nicaragua, broke off the Manzanillo talks. The problem is not to force Nicaragua to negotiate: It is to persuade Washington to negotiate with Nicaragua and to take into account the Contadora process; not just pay lip service to it.

The fourth reason for cutting off aid to the "contras" is that the covert war is counterproductive. If Reagan really wants us to reduce our Army, cease purchasing weapons, and send home the foreign military advisers, he should stop this war and the unprecedented military buildup in Honduras

The U.S. Administration complains that we obtain weapons from socialist countries, but Washington makes this necessary. Have we no right to obtain weapons to defend ourselves? Washington has pressed its allies not to sell us weapons. Reagan calls us "totalitarian" because we have imposed a state of emergency that restricts certain rights, including press freedom as regards military and security matters. The state of emergency was imposed in 1982 as a direct response to the covert war. If Reagan really wants the full restoration of political and civil rights, he need only stop the war.

We wish to secure peace with dignity from the United States. Despite the crimes committed against us, we hold out our hands in friendship.

DELEGATION NAMED FOR TALKS WITH BROOKLYN RIVERA

PA231817 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz, deputy interior minister, and Brooklyn Rivera, leader of Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas [MISURA] [as heard], will resume talks to find a peaceful solution to the conflict confronting them on 26 March [date as heard] in Bogota, Colombia.

Commander Carrion Cruz will be accompanied by Mirna Cunningham, minister delegate for northern Zelaya, Commander Omar Cabezas Lacayo, chief of the political directorate of the Interior Ministry; and Lumberto Campbell, FSLN political secretary in Special Zone 1. It was also reported that the ambassadors of Sweden, Mexico, the Netherlands, and France accredited in Colombia will again serve as observers to the dialogue. The Miskitos have also asked for the presence of representatives of the National Indian Organization of Colombia. Representatives of the South American Indian Confederation, the Sioux of the United States, and Canadian Indians will also be observers at the meeting.

COSEP ACKNOWLEDGES FINANCING FROM U.S. GROUP

PA231956 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] The Higher Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP] is a member of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] a rightist coalition which also includes three political parties and two small union confederations. The CDN was in the news in Nicaragua 2 days ago when it was learned that it had received \$150,000 in financing from an organization known as the National Endowment for Democracy [preceding words in English] that was created by the President Reagan administration. High-ranking leaders of the COSEP admitted in Managua yesterday that they had received financing from that organization, whose board of directors includes prominent representatives of the U.S. right wing and defenders of the White House policy against Nicaragua. Despite the COSEP's admission that it received the money, the representatives of the parties that are members of the CDN said they had no knowledge of this.

U.S. ECONOMIC STRATEGY, IDB ISSUE VIEWED

PA220258 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] We recently had the opportunity to confirm that the U.S. Government is pressuring international organizations to block all financial aid to Nicaragua for economic development projects aimed at improving the standard of living of the Nicaraguan people. The most recent case involves the IDB, which should have granted Nicaragua a \$56-million loan. The truth is that under the present circumstances of facing a war of aggression that the Reagan administration has been imposing on us for more than 4 years, and which has seriously depleted our economic reserves, this money would have represented a substantial economic contribution to 1985 finances, something which undoubtedly would have been highly beneficial to our economy.

Reagan's strategy and that of some local groups, who have their money abroad and apparently have nothing at stake in this war, is to destroy the revolutionary process by creating a state of unrest among the population, which would consequently begin disapproving of the actions taken by the revolution. The idea is to promote opposition to the revolutionary government and at the same time sympathy for the counterrevolution. This would be done by trying to make the people forget, as a result of economic problems, the atrocities committed by Somoza's National Guard, which has become the task forces that are killing our people.

The pressure that the U.S. vice president exerted on the IDB to prevent Nicaragua from obtaining a loan from that financial organization is no secret. Apparently this is the only resource left to the imperialists: to try by all means to undermine our economy because from a military standpoint the counterrevolution has been a total flop because the people have rejected it. To this we must add the U.S. Government's political blunders in using political figures who no longer have any popular support.

We firmly believe that Reagan and his acolytes will never understand the Nicaraguan people, who eventually will overcome the effects of the adverse strategy being carried out to undermine our economy. They do not realize how much we value our freedom and economic independence and that we want to work for our people and not the multinational enterprises.

To other peoples, Nicaragua's struggle to increase its production is not only heroic but worthy of admiration. In the midst of a war, Nicaragua's major victories have been in its production of coffee, cotton, and other goods. These great battles are the best answers we can give our aggressors. First they tried to subdue us by using arms and that did not work; now they are trying to starve us. But the Nicaraguan people will face the situation with dignity and courage, principles that are not included in the aggressors' computers, which are making false forecasts. That is why Reagan and his allies here will inevitably fail every time in opposing the Nicaraguan people.

EPS PREPARES FOR 'EVENTUAL' U.S. INVASION

PA230120 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army [EPS] will carry out defense exercises in the vicinity of the military installations known as El Chipote. Military sources reported that the exercises will take place today and are part of the EPS' permanent preparations in case of an eventual U.S. military invasion. Last November, during the so-called MIG crisis, the EPS deployed tanks and armored vehicles to various parts of Managua, while thousands of militiamen prepared intensely for an eventual Yankee invasion. Since then, preparations for the capital city's defense have increased and approximately 20,000 youth, who at that time were coffee harvest volunteers in the northern part of the country, have joined the Armed Forces.

LA PRENSA, BARRICADA ENGAGE IN POLEMICS

Criticism Leveled Against BARRICADA

PA240420 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Mar 85 p 2

[Text] When the IAPA delegation visited BARRICADA, its Acting Director Reyes Alba admitted that the newspaper received donations from the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, and even from U.S. friends. Nevertheless, its 21 March edition hypocritically accuses LA PRENSA, under the title "Institutes Linked With the CIA Finance LA PRENSA and the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN]," of receiving \$100,000 from a foundation of the U.S. Congress.

It is true that LA PRENSA received \$100,000, which we would not need if the Nicaraguan Government would sell us the necessary dollars to purchase ink, photographic material, and other elements that we have to import to publish our newspaper.

The statement that the CIA and the National Endowment for Democracy are one and the same is slanderous and represents an act of ill will, because the organization is under the U.S. Congress, not the executive branch. We ask: Why can BARRICADA receive a printing press as a donation from the GDR Government and Communist Party? Why can BARRICADA receive donations of paper and other materials from socialist countries and the United States without this necessarily implying a selling of our sovereignty or forsaking of Sandino's ideals, whereas if LA PRENSA, CDN, or another non-Sandinist organization receives a donation from a democratic country, this represents selling out our homeland or becoming a CIA agent?

This double standard has been used by BARRICADA in the past against the Catholic Church and Msgr [Miguel] Obando who was also accused of receiving CIA money, while no mention is made of the thousands of dollars received by the Valdivieso Center, Historical Institute, Evangelical Committee for Development Aid, and other popular church organizations from the U.S. National Council of Churches and other organizations. We demand that they judge us according to their own standards.

LA PRENSA Accused of Supporting U.S.

PA240430 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Jaime Chamorro Cardenal, director of the evening newspaper LA PRENSA, has asserted that "we are not impartial" regarding the U.S. war of aggression against Nicaragua; of course they are against the revolution. He supports Ronald Reagan's statement that Nicaragua is a "threat for his country's national security," arguing that this must be stopped by the counterrevolution. Is this an open confession of support for the mercenaries or not?

LA PRENSA yesterday admitted that it receives donations from those U.S. organizations which finance the outfitting of mercenary forces, coinciding with its director's statement that "the contras are fighting with weapons and we are fighting in other ways." Is this another confession that the newspaper defends the U.S. Government's interests, even though it plans to oust the Sandinist people's revolution, or not? LA PRENSA admits it receives donations from those who finance the war against Nicaragua and reprints the U.S. Embassy bulletin which explains why its government boycotts IDB loans for Nicaragua's development. Is this an act of propaganda supporting the aggression which is being withstood by the Nicaraguan people or not?

CUBAN VICE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 4-DAY VISIT

PA221616 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Hector Terry, the Cuban vice minister for hygiene and epidemiology, arrived in Managua today to review Cuban-Nicaraguan cooperation in those fields. During his 4-day visit to Nicaragua the Cuban official will conduct a study on possible cooperation between the two governments and is scheduled to meet Health Minister Lea Guido and officials of the Pan-American Health Organization.

34,000 TONS OF MEXICAN OIL ARRIVE AT SANDINO

PA221802 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Communique issued by the Directorate of Information and Press of the Nicaraguan Energy Institute, INE; date and place not given; read by INE official -- recorded]

[Text] (Treit Deiring), a tanker from the port of Pajaritos, Mexico carrying 250,000 barrels of oil -- that is, 34,000 tons of Mayan-Isthmus crude oil -- arrived today, Thursday, 21 March, at the port of Sandino. The Mexican Government has thus responded positively to the emergency situation in Nicaragua resulting from the failure of other sources to supply oil to the country. The arrival of this shipment, which is a supplement to the regular supply agreed upon with the Mexican Government, constitutes an act of support by the Mexican Government for the Nicaraguan Government.

Nicaragua is currently holding talks with Mexico to determine an adequate program of crude oil supplies and derivatives to our country. The financial aspects will be discussed in terms of the cooperation agreements between the two countries.

FORMER SANDINIST MINISTER LARIOS IN PANAMA

PA201925 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0102 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Panama City, 19 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Former Nicaraguan Defense Minister Bernardino Larios is in Panama, where he asked to be sent after leaving the guerrilla camps of the forces led by Eden Pastora, anti-Sandinist sources have confirmed. Jose Davila, in charge of the political affairs in Pastora's Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), told ACAN during a telephone interview from San Jose that Larios left for Panama early Sunday morning. Bernardino Larios was a colonel in Somoza's National Guard, but he rebelled and joined the Sandinist revolution that took power in 1979. Larios was the first defense minister that the Sandinist government had, but he was charged with plotting against the government and sentenced to a 2-year prison term, which he completed in September 1984.

Thanks to an operation set into motion by ARDE, the former Nicaraguan minister arrived at Pastora's (Commander Cero) camps after a several day journey through the Nicaraguan jungle. Pastora himself confirmed this in Panama. "Early Sunday morning former Colonel Larios asked ARDE to arrange his transfer to a neutral country and that is how he arrived in Panama that same day," Jose Davila explained. However, citing security reasons, Davila refused to reveal how the former colonel arrived in Panama from southern Nicaragua. Meanwhile, two progovernment dailies in Panama City reported today that Bernardino Larios arrived in Panama after "the Sandinist Government had acceded to a request made by the Panama Defense Forces." That report was "fully corroborated" by a military spokesman in this capital.

Nicaraguan Embassy officials told ACAN-EFE that they had no knowledge of such an action. At the same time, Jose Davila insisted that the former Somozist colonel and Sandinist minister was turned over to Panamanian authorities by Pastora's forces, not by Managua authorities. It has not yet been reported whether Bernardino Larios will remain in Panama or travel to another country.

Hospitalized for Tuberculosis

PA211657 Paris AFP in Spanish 0509 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Panama City, 20 Mar (AFP) -- It was learned here today that former Nicaraguan Defense Minister Bernardino Larios is hospitalized and under intense medical care at a state-owned hospital in Panama City. Larios, who was imprisoned in Nicaragua for several years, said that he is in poor health after having walked for 18 days to escape from his country. He was visited today at the medical center by Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panamanian Armed Forces, which claims that they obtained Larios' release. However, the Managua government has denied his version and the ARDE led by Eden Pastora has said that it rescued Larios from the house arrest in Managua.

Larios entered the country, where he is living under the protection of the Panamanian Government, on Sunday in a deplorable condition complicated by tuberculosis, which he contracted in a Nicaraguan jail.

FIDEL CASTRO MEETS WITH U.S. METHODISTS

FL231236 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] The Methodist Church on K and 25th Streets has hosted a meeting between the Cuban Ecumenical Council and Florida's Council of Churches to discuss the work of Cuban churches, to seek closer relations between the Cuban and U.S. churches, and to promote relations between the two countries. When the meeting ended, a joint resolution was issued in which Washington's anti-Cuban policies were criticized, which, according to the document, brings ruptured personal, institutional, and spiritual ties between the two peoples. Also emphasized was the positive role of the church in Cuba and recognition of the revolutionary government in this role.

Before departing for their country, the 23 North Americans met with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, with whom they held a cordial conversation.

GRANMA CARRIES REPORT ON CASTRO-GORBACHEV MEETING

PA221519 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Today's front page GRANMA carries a lengthy report on the meeting in Moscow between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. The report underscores the atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding that prevailed at the meeting in which the two leaders expressed the aspirations of their two countries to continue strengthening bilateral ties based on the principles of socialist internationalism.

General Raul Castro traveled to Moscow to attend the funeral of Konstantin Chernenko, who died a few days ago.

MINISTER OF IRON-STEEL INDUSTRY VISITS MOSCOW

Meets Aleksey Antonov

FL222350 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Aleksey Antonov, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers, today received Minister of Iron and Steel Machinery Industry Marcos Lage at the Kremlin. At the meeting, consideration was given to Cuban participation in the CEMA Committee for Machine Building, headed by Antonov. Aspects of Soviet cooperation in the development of the machine building industry in Cuba were also discussed.

Discusses Cooperation

FL221652 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1512 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Minister of Iron and Steel Machinery Industry Marcos Lage has held discussions in Moscow on present and future perspectives in cooperation in the construction sector and on the USSR's supplying machines, tools, and other items. Lage and the delegation accompanying him also studied cooperation in the manufacture of televisions, and on organizing the maintenance needed for that type of domestic electric product.

ORLANDO FUNDORA ATTENDS WPC MEETING IN USSR

FL221626 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Representatives from more than 100 countries are attending, starting today in Moscow, a meeting of the World Peace Council's [WPC] presidency which will discuss among other topics, the historical significance of the triumph over fascism and the struggle against the danger of a nuclear war.

Orlando Fundora, alternate Central Committee member and president of the Cuban Committee for the Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples [title as heard], was nominated Thursday as vice president of the council. The accord was adopted at the WPC presidency's board meeting.

URUGUAY'S SEREGNI ISSUES STATEMENTS IN MOSCOW

PA240020 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Retired General Liber Seregni, president of the Broad Front in Uruguay, has urged all Latin American people to actively support the Central American peoples struggle. In statements issued in Moscow, Seregni said that we must participate and step up the Nicaraguan people's current struggle against direct attacks of the United States, adding that solidarity with Cuba has always been present in all the Uruguayans' hearts.

BRAVO SUPPORTS CANCELLATION OF FOREIGN DEBT

FL222028 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1808 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], today stressed in Tokyo, Japan, the current difficult circumstances of Latin America, which has a foreign debt of \$350 billion. Bravo made these remarks at a meeting of the Association of Chiefs of Latin American Diplomatic Missions in Japan, at which Cuba was awarded the Testimony of Friendship Medal.

Speaking of the Latin American foreign debt, Flavio Bravo said if political dialogue is ignored by the creditor nations, the risk of social, political, and economic instability will persist. ANPP President Flavio Bravo warned that the solution of the Latin American foreign debt problem does not lie in debt renegotiation but in the ability to pay the interest charges, which is the key point.

Speaking in Tokyo, Japan, ANPP President Flavio Bravo said Latin American nations must pay \$40 billion in interest, adding that to this great amount must be added capital flight and the repatriation of earnings by foreign firms. He also said the problems inherent in unequal trade and protectionist measures must be added. If the world can permit itself the luxury of spending trillions of dollars on military weapons, why can it not just once cancel the debt of the underdeveloped countries, Flavio Bravo asked at the meeting of the Association of Chiefs of Latin American Diplomatic Missions in Japan.

17 'MARIELITOS' ARRESTED IN MINNEAPOLIS

FL221220 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Washington -- Seventeen persons of Cuban descent were arrested today in the U.S. city of Minneapolis, Minnesota, charged with being part of a group of traffickers in drugs and weapons. According to the special unit that conducted the investigation, these persons arrived in the United States in 1980 with the so-called Marielitos.